



# DARK DAYS

1



**Snyder**  
**Tynion IV**  
**Lee**  
**Hubert**  
**Romita Jr.**  
**Williams**  
**Janson**  
**Miki**  
**Sinclair**

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# DARK DAYS

## What is the Dark Multiverse?

# THE HORIZON

The prelude to the epic event

# METAL

**SCOTT SNYDER  
JAMES TYNION IV  
ANDY KUBERT  
JIM LEE  
JOHN ROMITA JR.**

JUNE 2017







# DARK DAYS

1

# THE HUNTER



Andy  
Hibbert  
PA

**Snyder**  
**Tynion IV**  
**Lee**  
**Kubert**  
**Romita Jr.**  
**Williams**  
**Janson**  
**Miki**  
**Sinclair**





# DARK DAYS

1

# THE NEW 52



**Snyder**  
**Tynion IV**  
**Lee**  
**Robert**  
**Romita Jr.**  
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**Janson**  
**Miki**  
**Sinclair**



There is a feeling you get at the beginning of an adventure...



...you feel it in your veins, the channels, your heart starts pounding...

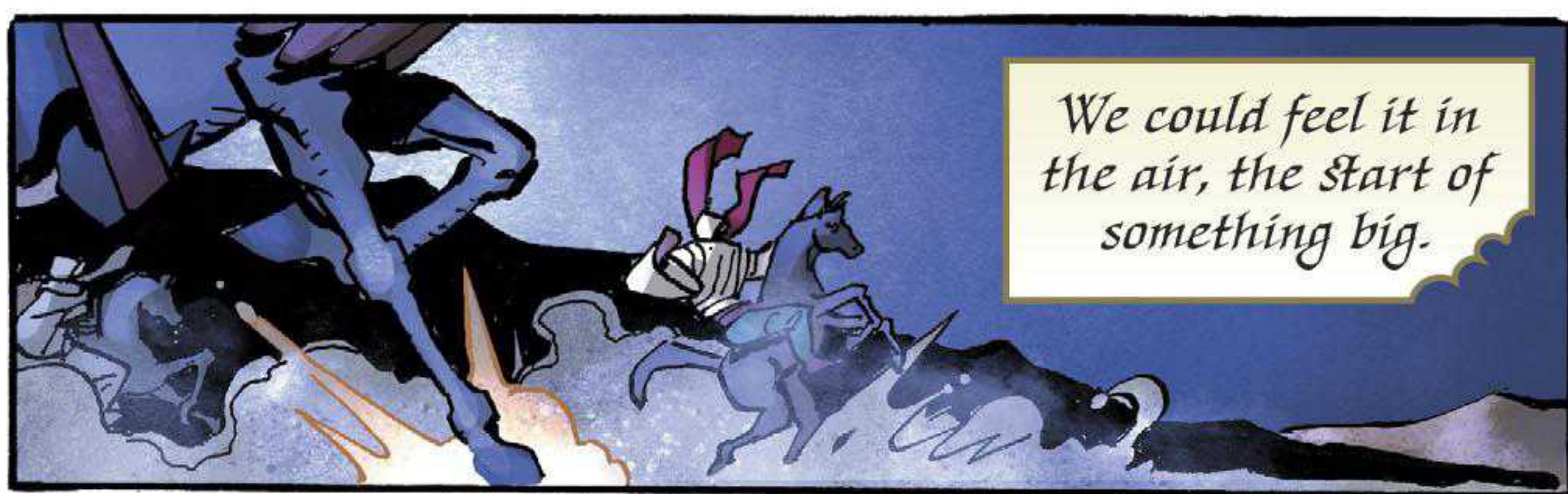


...beating only for discovery...

My name is Carter Hall and this is my final journal.

I have lived many lives. But I still remember that night like it was yesterday.

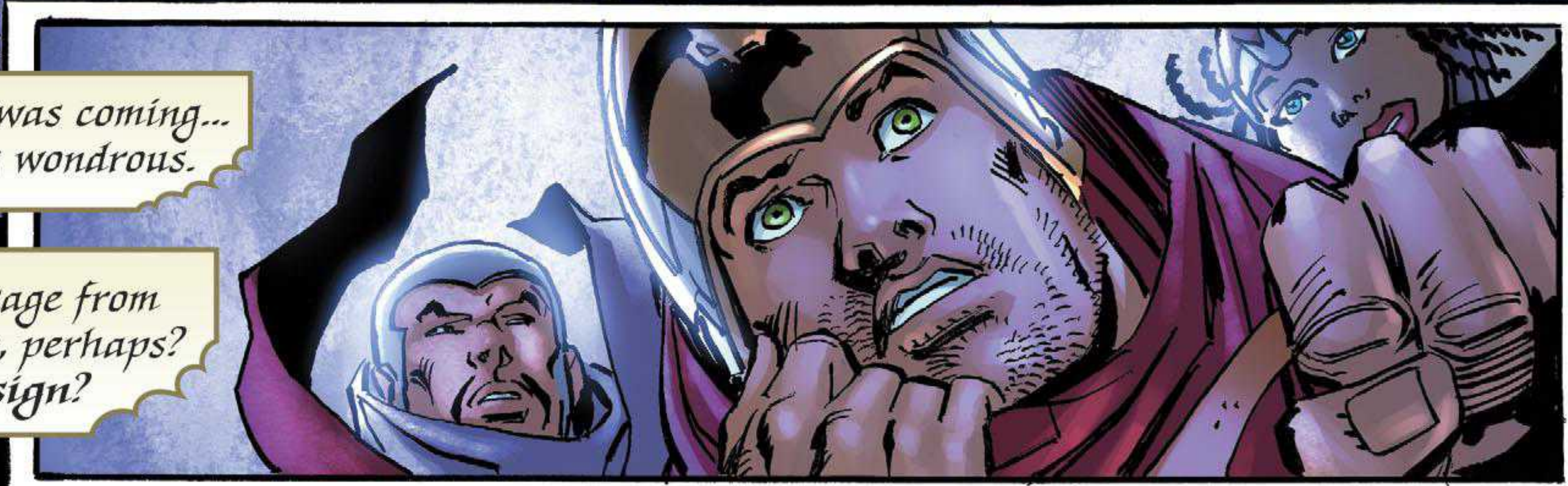
A young boy had spied something in the sky, a light, and we rode out together, my princess, my advisor, our guards, all to see what it was.



We could feel it in the air, the start of something big.

Something was coming... something wondrous.

A message from the gods, perhaps? A sign?





*But it was no sign.*



*It was a clue to the greatest mystery  
in the history of mankind.*



*And it was written in metal.*



**NOW.**  
**THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.**

THE **TREMORS** STARTED FORTY MINUTES AGO AND HAVE ONLY GROWN **WORSE**...I DON'T KNOW IF THE REST OF THE RESEARCH TEAM MADE IT OUT IN TIME. IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME. THE LAVA WILL ENGULF THE BASE IN MINUTES.

I STAYED TO PROTECT WHAT WE'VE JUST LEARNED. I KEEP READING AND REREADING THE DATA, HOPING IT COMES TOGETHER. HOPING WHAT I THOUGHT I SAW WASN'T TRUE.

PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW. PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

THERE'S SOMETHING... THERE'S SOMETHING **WRONG** WITH THE EARTH'S CORE.

R-RECORD MESSAGE.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE **METAL**...

AHH!







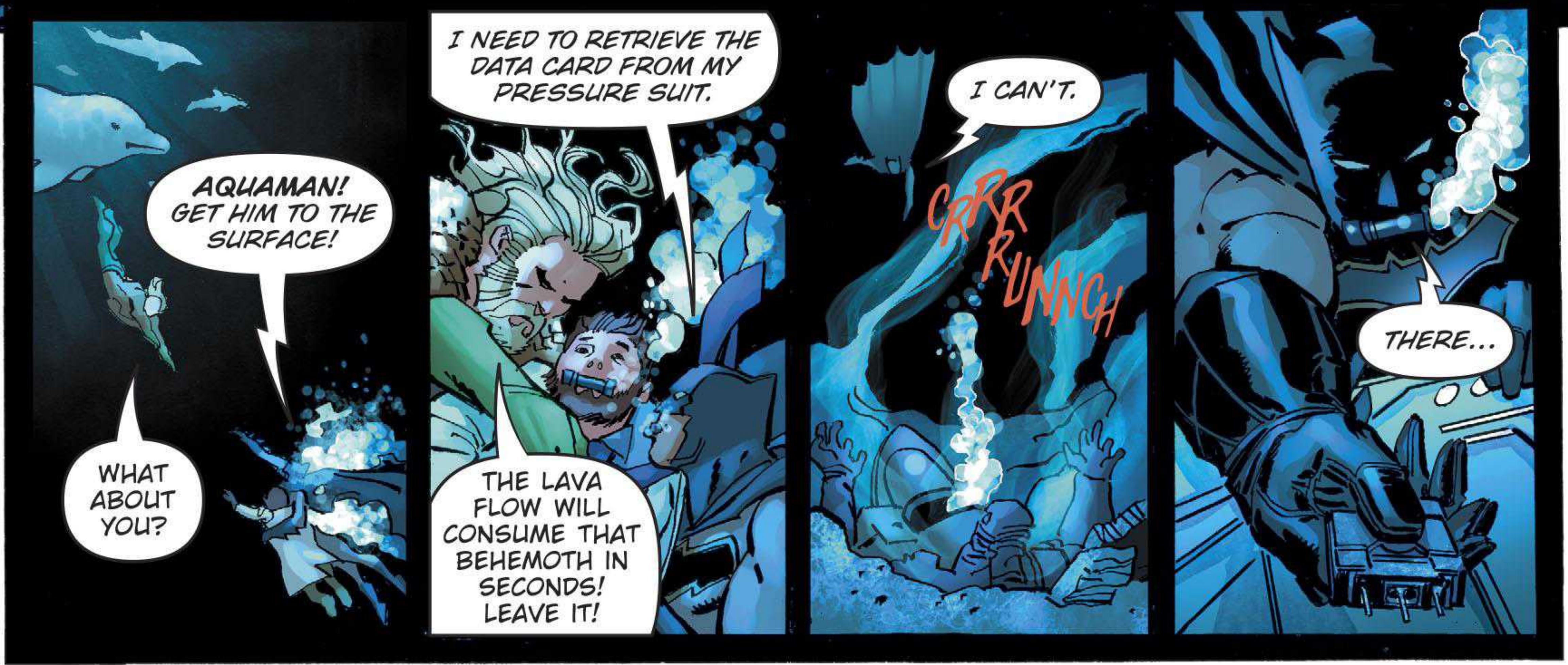
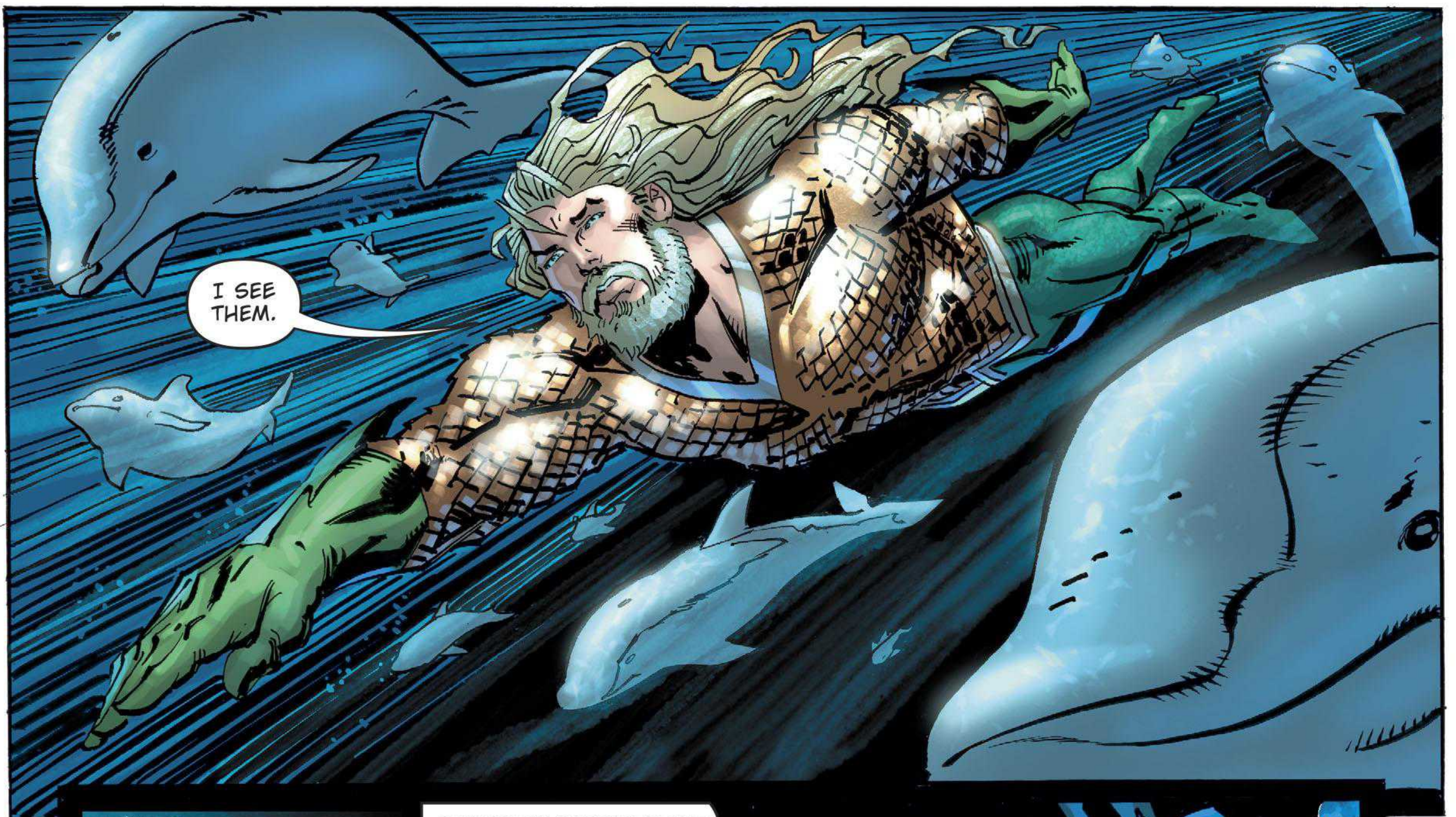
DR. MADISON...

THE ONLY  
WAY OUT IS  
THROUGH THE  
VOLCANO.

GET IN.

B-BATMAN?









THE OTHERS?

MY FRIENDS ARE PULLING THEM TO SHORE NOW. NO CASUALTIES.

THANK YOU, AQUAMAN.

BATMAN. THIS WAS A **WAYNE ENTERPRISES** BLACK SITE. AN OFF-THE-BOOKS DRILLING OPERATION IN MY DOMAIN.

YOU WEREN'T JUST KEEPING THIS PLACE HIDDEN FROM THE **SURFACE** WORLD. YOU WERE KEEPING IT HIDDEN FROM **ATLANTIS**. FROM ME.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, BRUCE?

[Panel showing Batman looking down at the man on the sand.]

WITH WHAT I KNOW IS LOCKED UNDERNEATH ATLANTIS...IS THAT REALLY A QUESTION YOU WANT TO ASK ME?

WHAT WE NEED TO BE ASKING IS SIMPLER THAN THAT, ARTHUR...

WHAT ARE **THEY** HIDING?

HE CAN LOOK ALL HE WANTS, BUT HE **WON'T** FIND OUT. **LADY BLACKHAWK** TO CONTROL. BRING ME HOME.





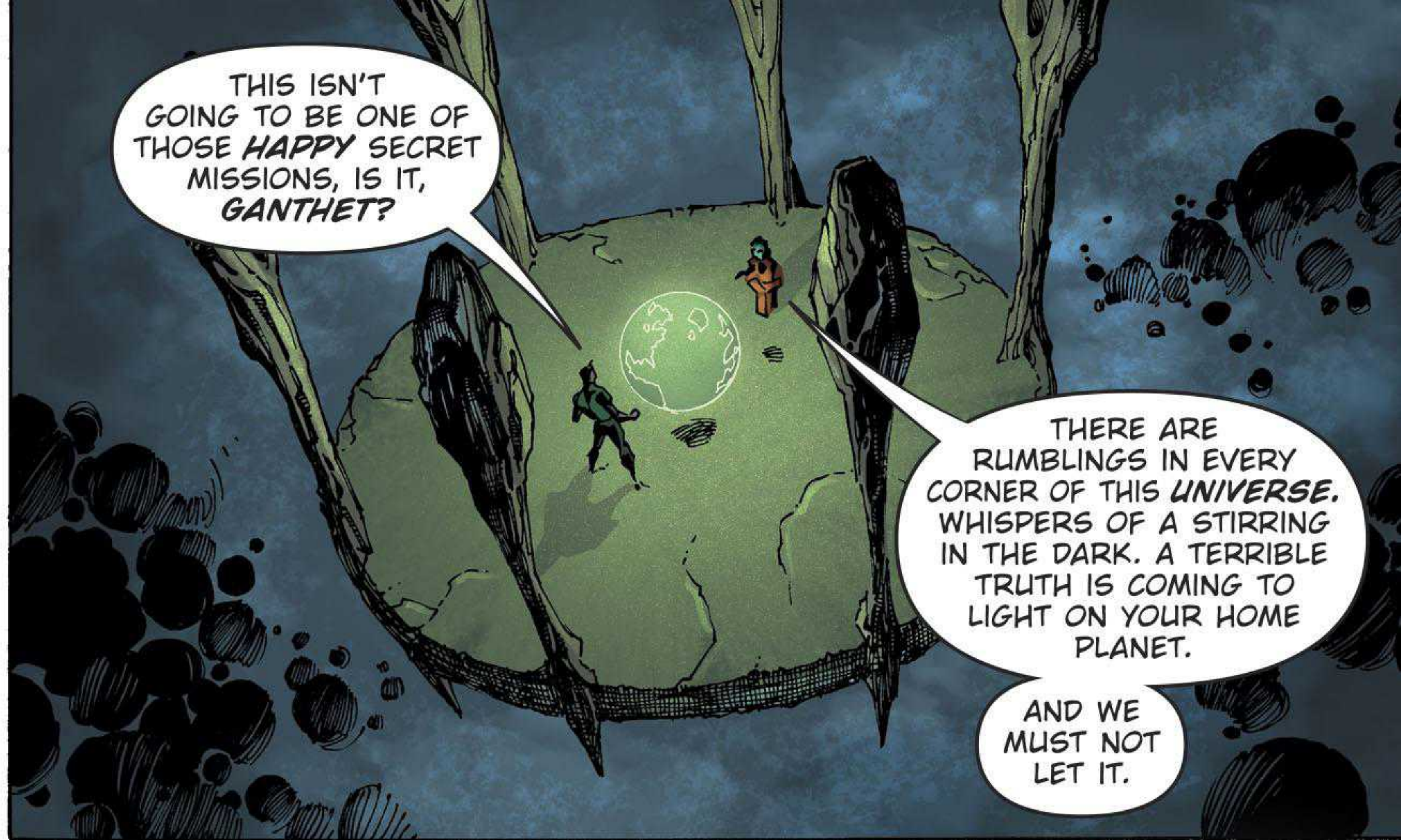
**MOGO.**  
HOME OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

HAL JORDAN OF EARTH.  
I AM TEMPORARILY PULLING  
YOU FROM ACTIVE DUTY. I HAVE A  
PRIVATE MISSION FOR YOU OF  
PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

THIS MISSION *MUST*  
REMAIN SECRET FROM YOUR FELLOW  
LANTERNS. *PARTICULARLY* YOUR  
FELLOW EARTH MEN.



THIS ISN'T  
GOING TO BE ONE OF  
THOSE *HAPPY* SECRET  
MISSIONS, IS IT,  
GANTHET?



THERE ARE  
RUMBLINGS IN EVERY  
CORNER OF THIS *UNIVERSE*.  
WHISPERS OF A STIRRING  
IN THE DARK. A TERRIBLE  
TRUTH IS COMING TO  
LIGHT ON YOUR HOME  
PLANET.

AND WE  
MUST NOT  
LET IT.

WAIT, *THESE*  
ARE THE  
COORDINATES?  
*THIS* IS THE  
SOURCE  
OF THE  
THREAT?



IS THERE A  
PROBLEM, HAL  
JORDAN?

**WAYNE MANOR.**  
GOTHAM CITY.



NO. NO  
PROBLEM AT  
ALL.



# THE BATCAVE.

THERE'S MORE SPOOKY CRAP IN THIS PLACE EVERY TIME I VISIT...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S FIND WHAT'S GOT GANTHET'S ROBES UP IN A BUNCH AND GET THE HELL OUT OF THIS MAUSOLEUM.

I DON'T THINK SO.

SORRY, GREEN LANTERN. I'M ON STRICT ORDERS FROM BATMAN.

**NOBODY** IS ALLOWED IN THE CAVE RIGHT NOW. NOT EVEN FAMILY.





YEAH, THAT'S NOT SUSPICIOUS AT ALL.

THOUGHT I READ THAT LITTLE RING OF YOURS DIDN'T WORK ON YELLOW...

IT DOES IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

GLAD TO SEE BATMAN'S STILL RECRUITING *TEENAGERS*. YOU'RE NEW, AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S YOUR NAME? YELLOW ROBIN? CANARY? *BIG BIRD*?

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT *BATMAN* LEFT ME HERE WITH A *JOB* TO DO.

AND THAT IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO *REGRET IT*.

AW, YOU'RE DOING THE VOICE AND *EVERYTHING*.

SERIOUSLY, KID. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

DUKE THOMAS. I DON'T HAVE A CODE NAME YET.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SCANNING FOR SOMETHING...



THERE.



H-HEY!

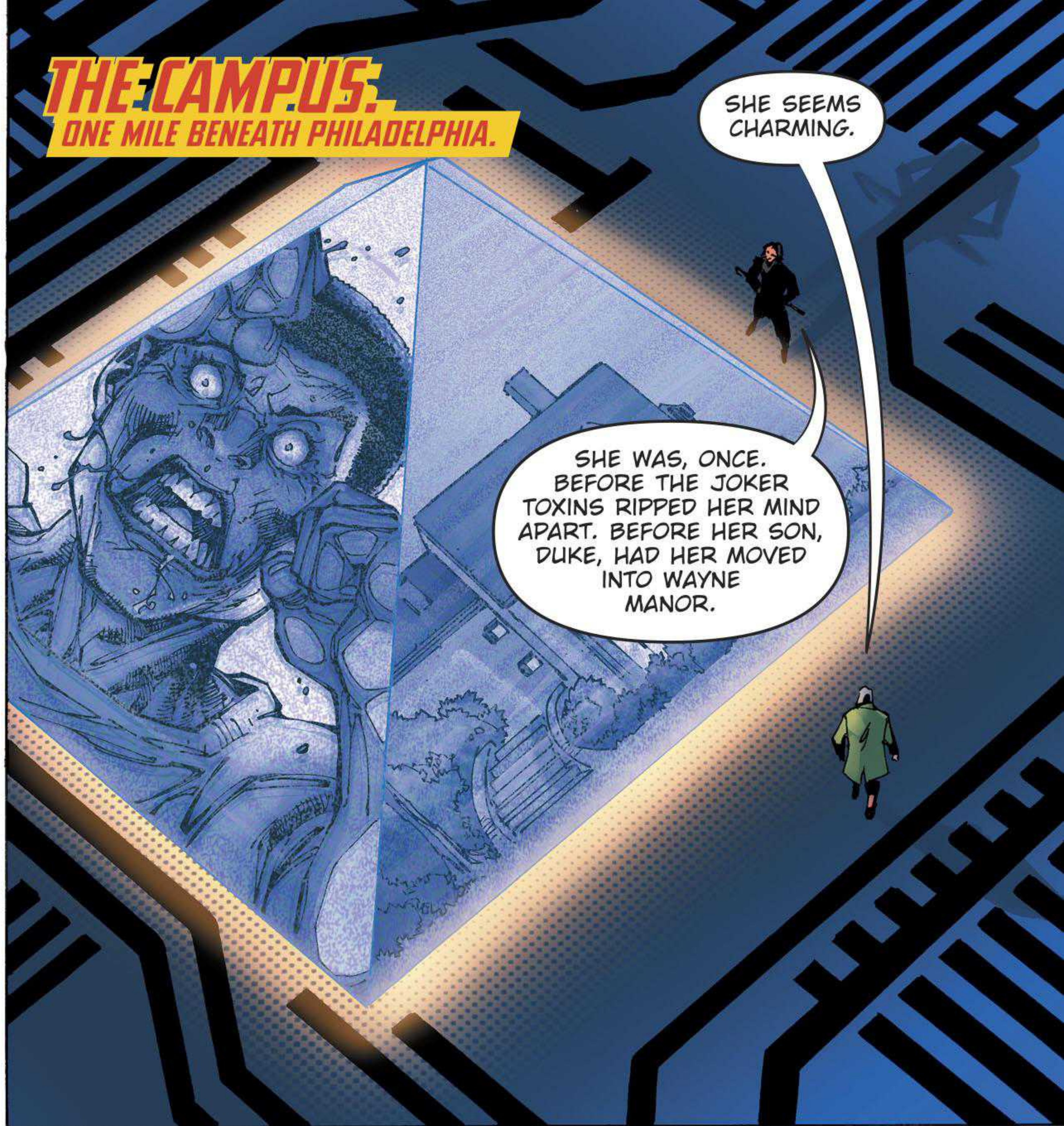
COME BACK HERE!





DIE...DIE...  
DIE...

HER NAME  
IS ELAINE  
THOMAS.



**THE CAMPUS:**  
ONE MILE BENEATH PHILADELPHIA.

SHE SEEMS  
CHARMING.

SHE WAS, ONCE.  
BEFORE THE JOKER  
TOXINS RIPPED HER MIND  
APART. BEFORE HER SON,  
DUKE, HAD HER MOVED  
INTO WAYNE  
MANOR.



I MADE  
HER THE **OFFER**,  
MANY YEARS  
AGO.

THE OFFER  
TO JOIN A SECRET  
BATTLE THAT  
STRETCHED BACK  
TO THE DAWN  
OF TIME.

AN OFFER  
TO **LIVE  
FOREVER.**

SHE DIDN'T  
TAKE YOU UP  
ON IT, I'M  
GUESSIN'.



SO, WHY IS THE  
GREAT AND POWERFUL  
**IMMORTAL MAN**  
WALKING DOWN  
MEMORY LANE?

MRS. THOMAS...  
REACTIVATED, BRIEFLY,  
A FEW WEEKS AGO.

I'VE BEEN  
MONITORING TO  
MAKE SURE SHE HASN'T  
REVEALED ANYTHING SHE  
SHOULDN'T TO ANYONE  
SHE SHOULDN'T.

BUT SHE  
REMAINS INCAPABLE  
OF DIVULGING OUR  
SECRETS, NO MATTER  
HOW HARD THE BATMAN  
PRIES. WE NEEDN'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
HER.




OUR SECRECY  
IS PARAMOUNT TO  
OUR SUCCESS.

THE WORLD OF  
THE PUBLIC HEROES IS  
CAREENING TOWARD A  
CRISIS UNLIKE ANYTHING  
THEY'VE SEEN  
BEFORE.

AND IT WILL  
BE UP TO **THE  
IMMORTAL MEN** TO  
PRESERVE MANKIND'S  
FUTURE.

IF ANY OF US  
SURVIVE LONG  
ENOUGH TO  
SEE IT...





From that night on, that fateful night in the Egyptian desert, my story is well known.

The ship was made of a mysterious substance called Nth metal. It gave me, my wife, and our mortal enemy, Hath-Set, eternal life, sending us into a cycle of reincarnation-- Shiera and I fighting on the side of good, Hath-Set on that of evil.

We were born hundreds, even thousands of times over, cast against each other.

But the truth is, sometimes, in those dark moments, those moments in between lives, before being born again, I would catch glimpses...

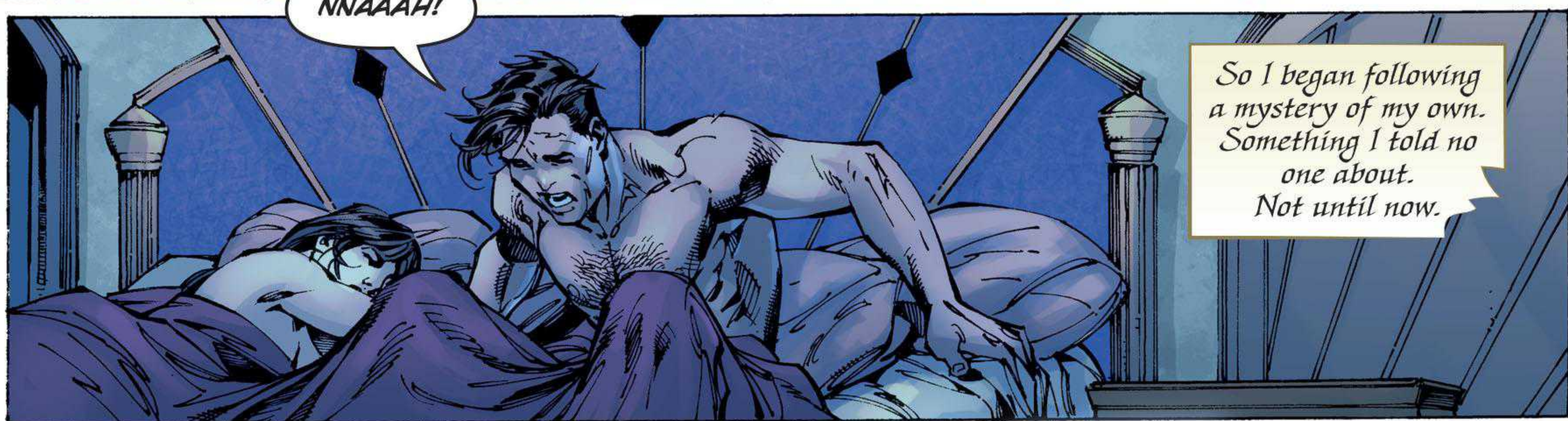
...glimpses of something bigger, a mystery behind our lives, our story.



Something terrifying. Something on a scale I'd never seen before. A dream... no, not a dream. A **nightmare**, echoing through the metal.



NNAAAH!



So I began following a mystery of my own. Something I told no one about. Not until now.



Here in these pages.



A mystery that  
would take me  
places I never  
dreamed.

## LUNAR BATCAVE. THE MOON.

COMPUTER.

SEND A  
MESSAGE TO  
LUCIUS.

BLACK SITE 14  
IS **DOWN**. I WANT  
SITE 15 UP AND RUNNING  
WITHIN THE WEEK. KEEP  
THIS ONE AWAY FROM  
THE OCEANS.

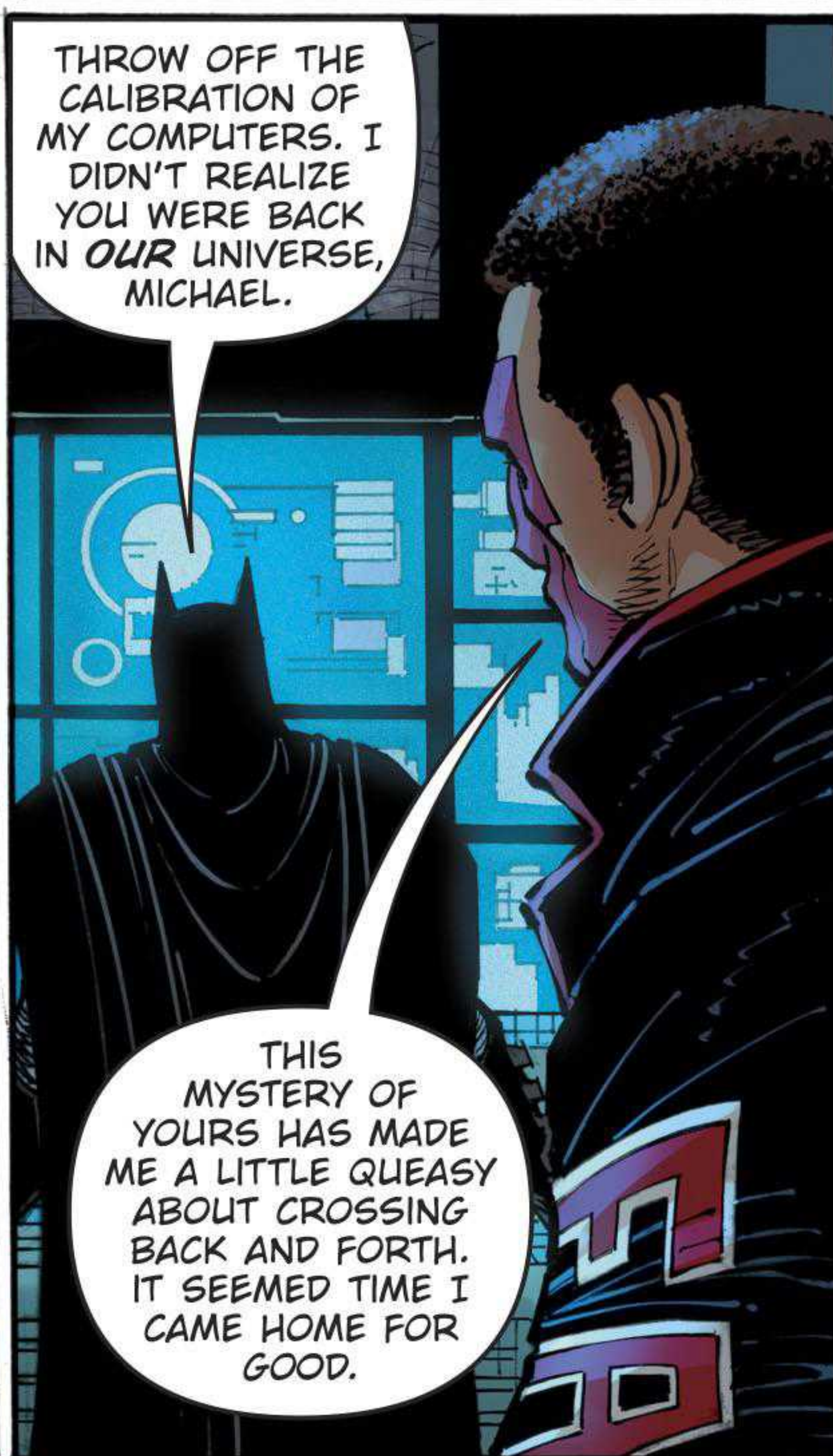
CREATE UPLINK  
TO THE **SHADOW  
DRIVE**. ADDING NEW  
GEOLOGICAL DATA FOR  
COMPARISONS.

SO, IT WAS  
AS BAD AS YOU  
THOUGHT IT  
WOULD BE?





WHAT DID MY  
**T-SPHERES** EVER  
DO TO YOU?



THROW OFF THE  
CALIBRATION OF  
MY COMPUTERS. I  
DIDN'T REALIZE  
YOU WERE BACK  
IN *OUR* UNIVERSE,  
MICHAEL.

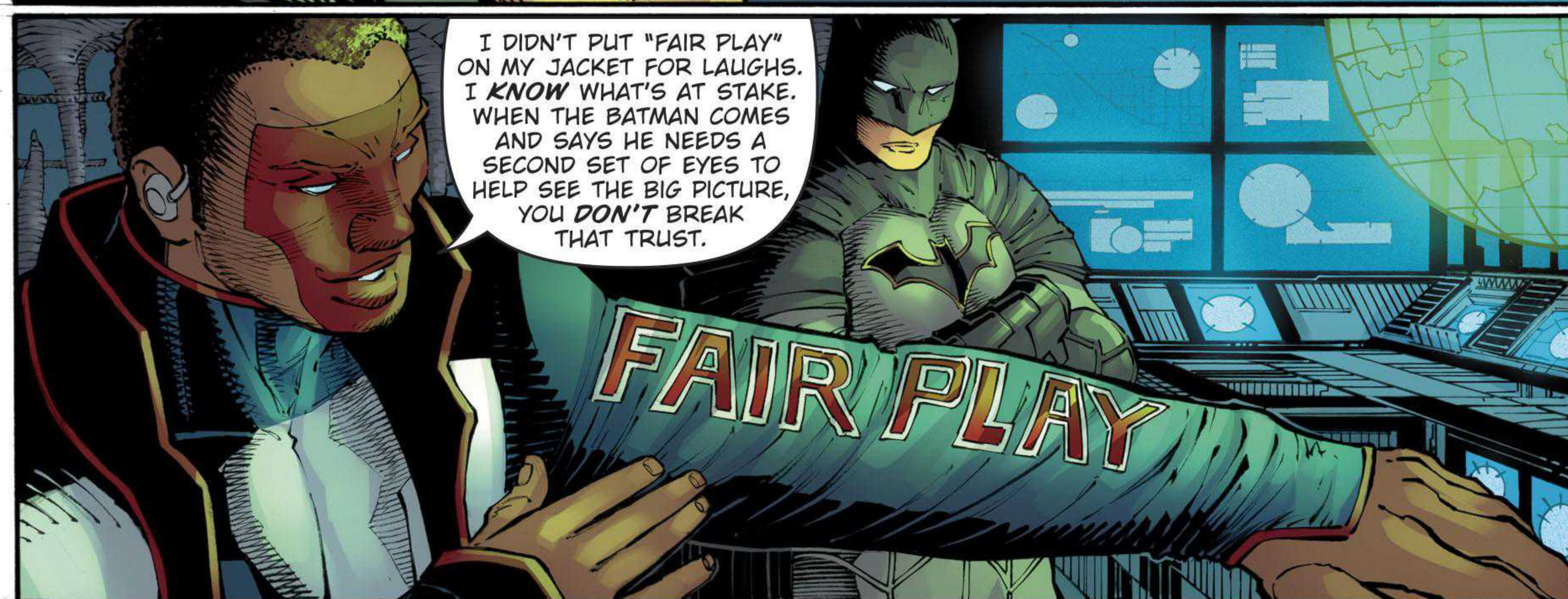
THIS  
MYSTERY OF  
YOURS HAS MADE  
ME A LITTLE QUEASY  
ABOUT CROSSING  
BACK AND FORTH.  
IT SEEMED TIME I  
CAME HOME FOR  
GOOD.



BUT  
**MR. TERRIFIC**  
KEEPS HIS  
PROMISES. HERE'S  
ALL THE DATA I  
COULD GATHER  
FROM THE *OTHER*  
WORLD.



HAVE YOU TOLD  
**ANYONE** WHAT  
WE'VE BEEN WORKING  
ON? ON EITHER  
EARTH?



I DIDN'T PUT "FAIR PLAY"  
ON MY JACKET FOR LAUGHS.  
I *KNOW* WHAT'S AT STAKE.  
WHEN THE BATMAN COMES  
AND SAYS HE NEEDS A  
SECOND SET OF EYES TO  
HELP SEE THE BIG PICTURE,  
YOU *DON'T* BREAK  
THAT TRUST.

**FAIR PLAY**

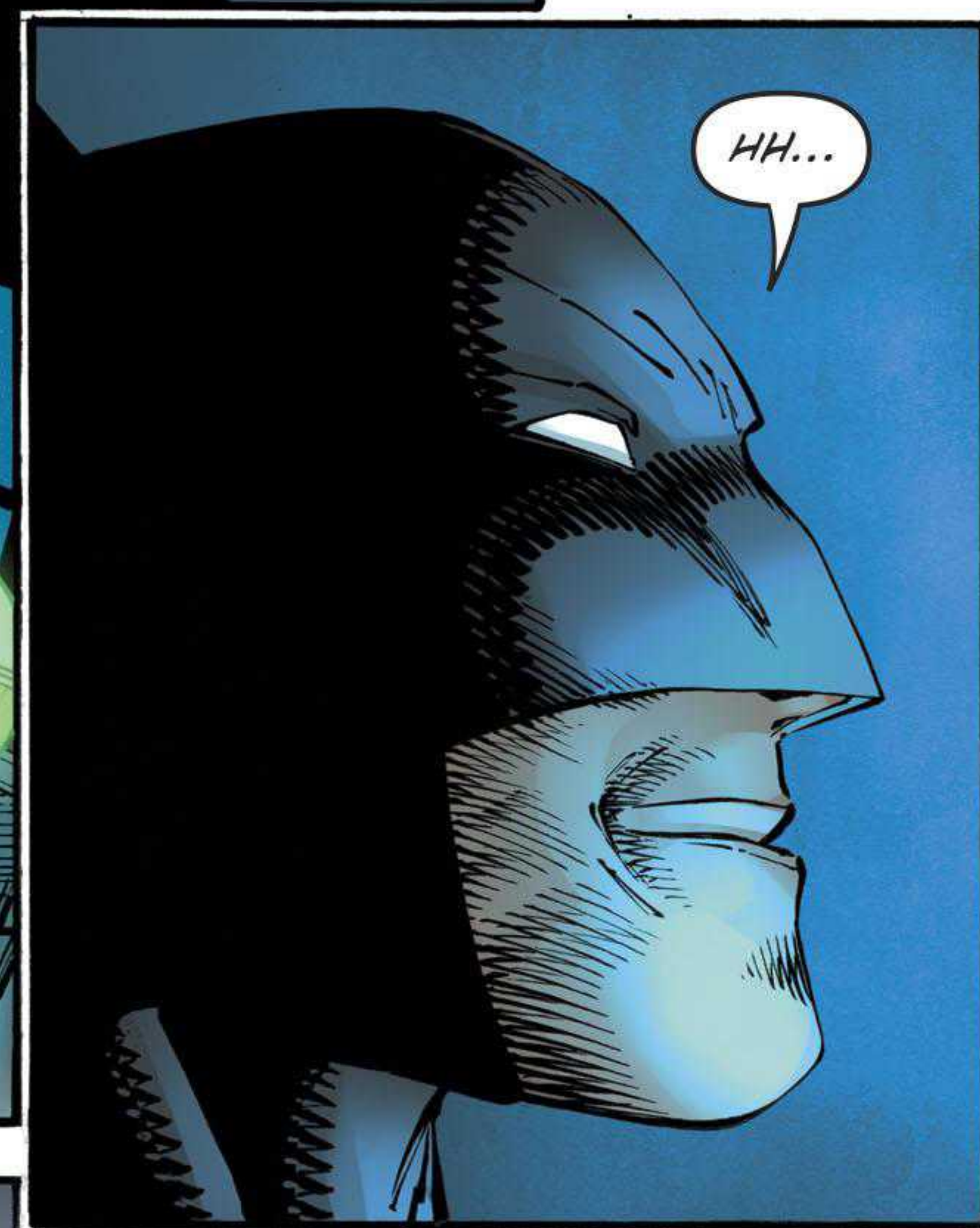




AND NOW, HOW IS THAT BIG PICTURE LOOKING?

I'LL BE HONEST, BATMAN. I HAVE AN IQ OF 179, BUT I HAVE **NO IDEA** WHAT ANY OF THIS MEANS. THE FREQUENCY THAT'S BEING GENERATED ACROSS THE WORLDS IS GROWING STRONGER, BUT IT'S NOT STEADY AT ALL. IT SEEMS RANDOM.

LIKE A COMPASS, SPINNING WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL...



HH...



THAT JUST SPARKED SOMETHING, DIDN'T IT?

THERE'S NOTHING ON THIS EARTH THAT I KNOW OF THAT COULD GET YOU A CLEAN READING ON THIS DATA. IT WOULD TAKE SOMETHING MASSIVE.

SOMETHING PRACTICALLY **COSMIC** IN SCALE.

YES. IT WILL. AND WHERE IT LEADS ME, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY COMING BACK.

AND MICHAEL...I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING WHILE I FOLLOW THIS PATH TO THE END. I'VE ALREADY **EXTRACTED** THE MOLECULES I NEEDED FROM HIS BODY.



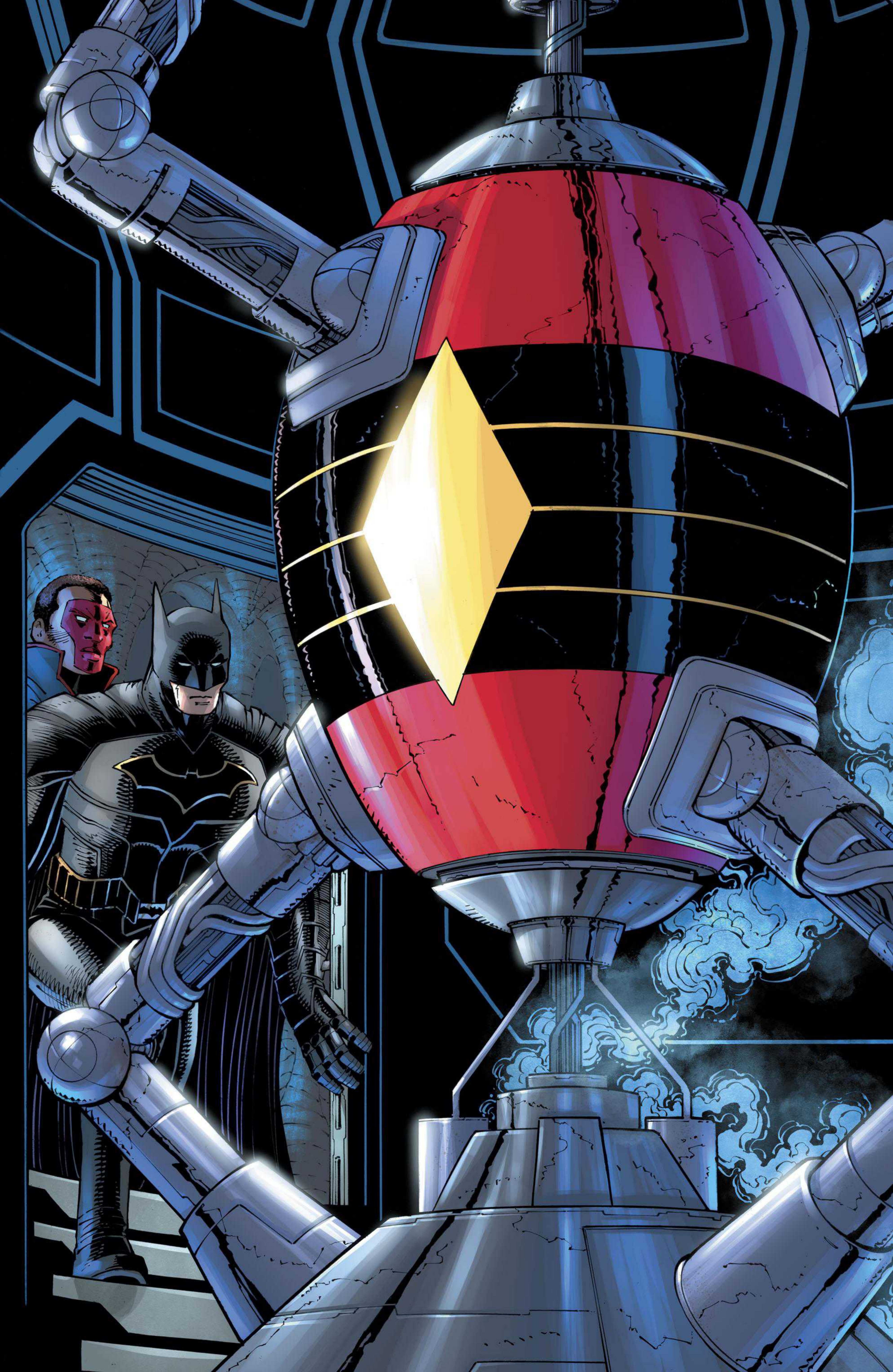
WE ALL AGREED HE WAS TOO UNSTABLE... THAT THERE WAS NO END TO WHAT HE COULD DO IF WE WEREN'T CAREFUL. BUT I'M GOING TO **NEED** HIM FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.

IT'S TIME TO LET **HIM** OUT OF THE BOX.

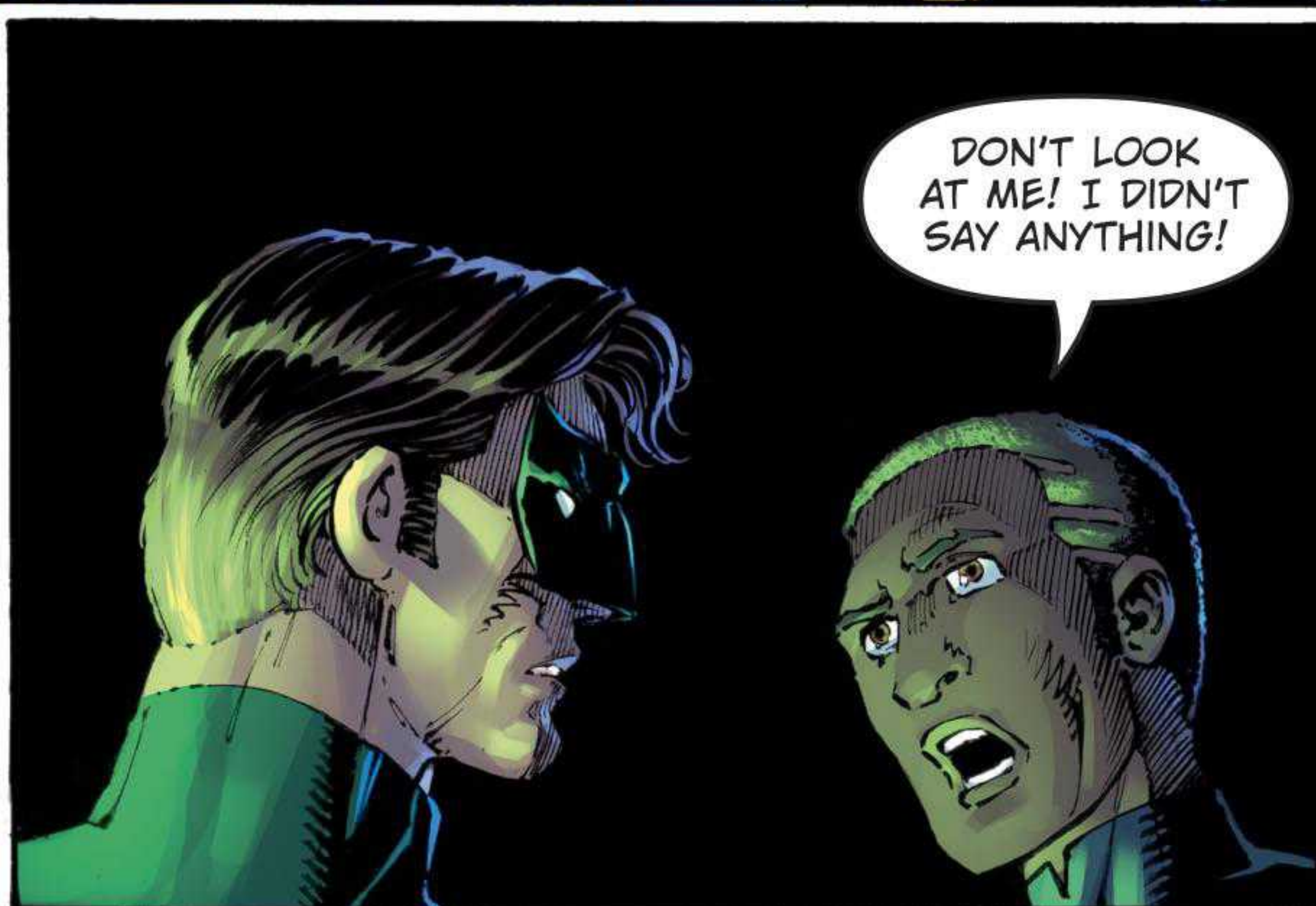


YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT IT IS.

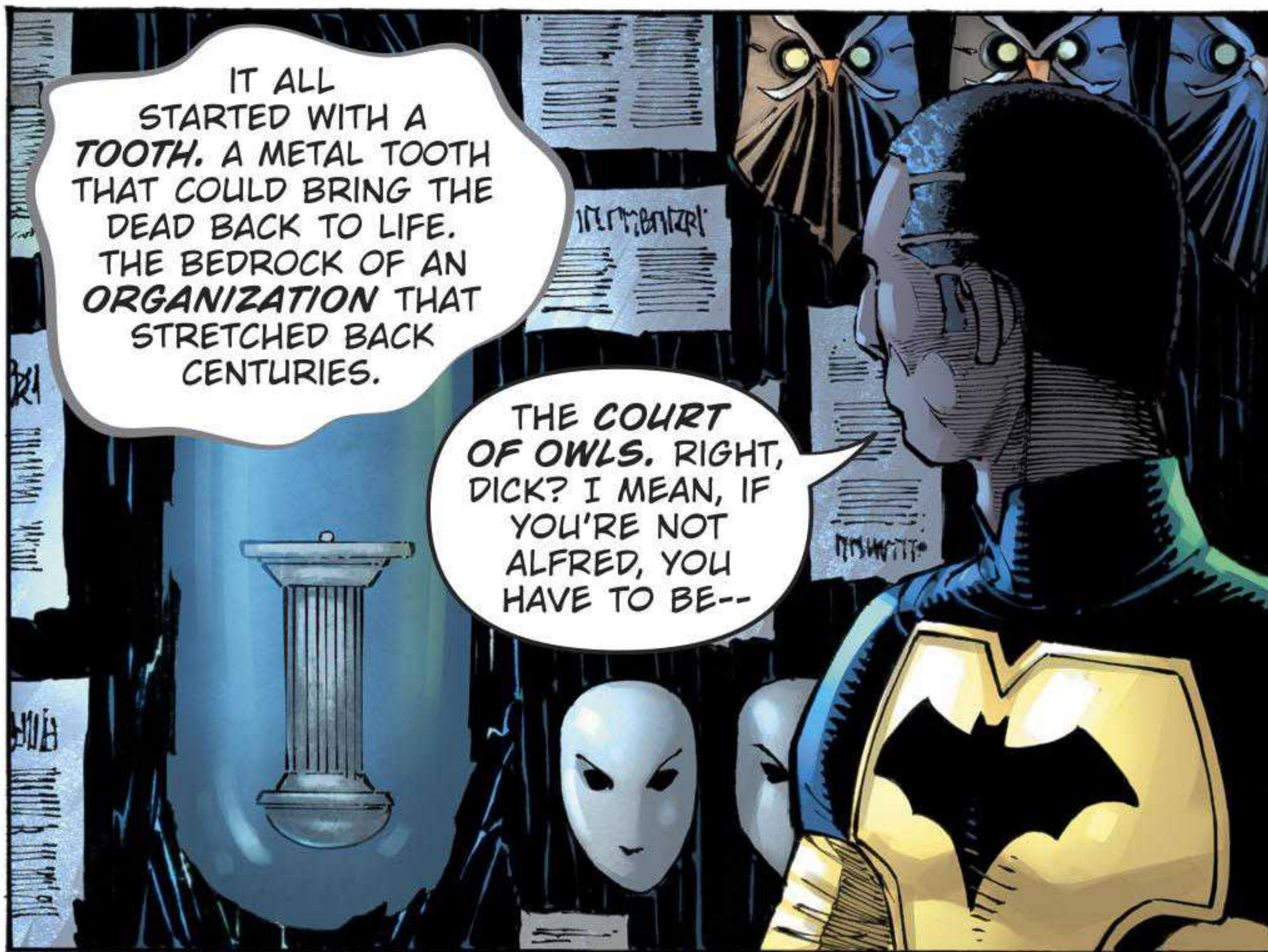






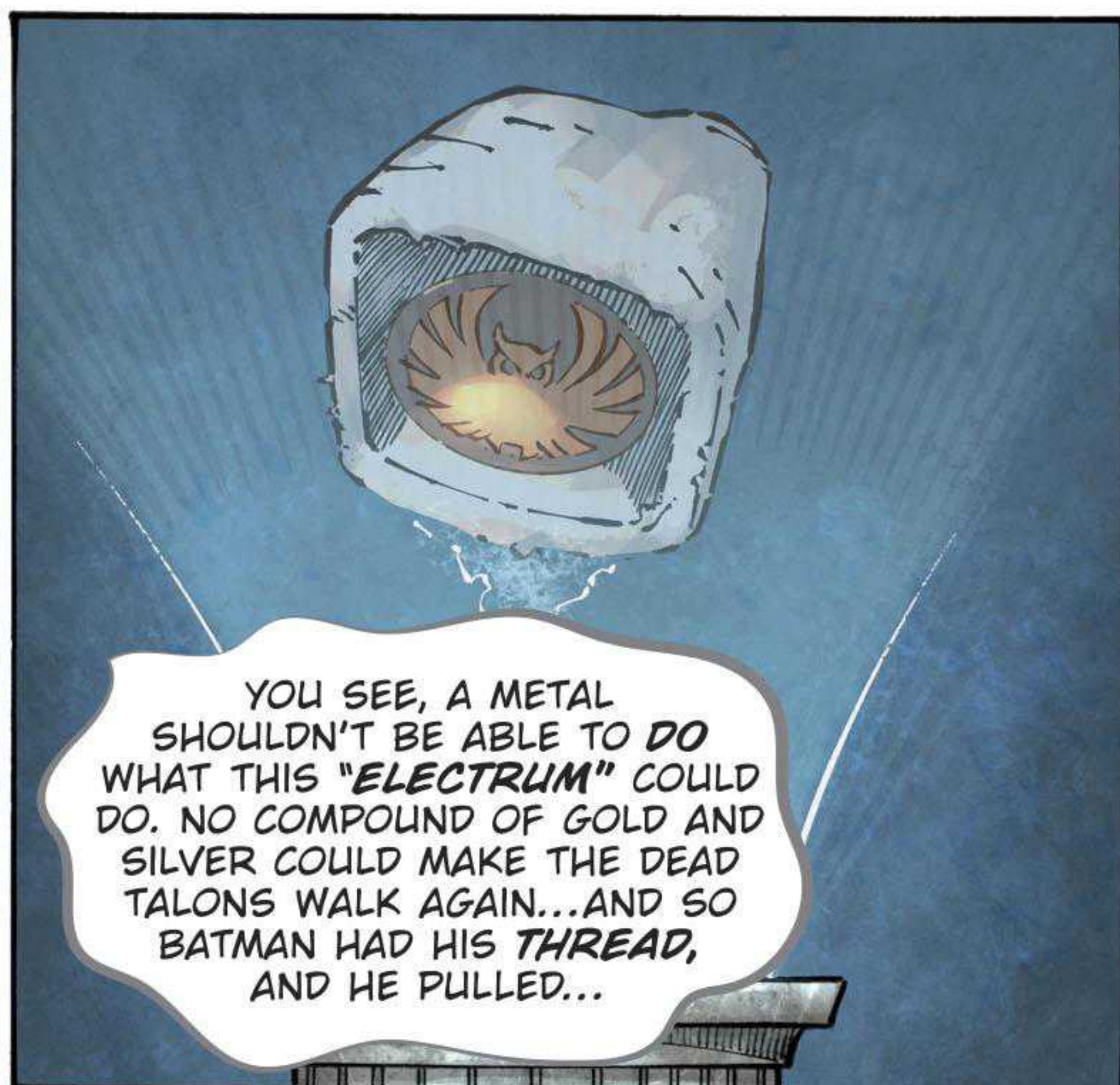






IT ALL STARTED WITH A **TOOTH**. A METAL TOOTH THAT COULD BRING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE. THE BEDROCK OF AN **ORGANIZATION** THAT STRETCHED BACK CENTURIES.

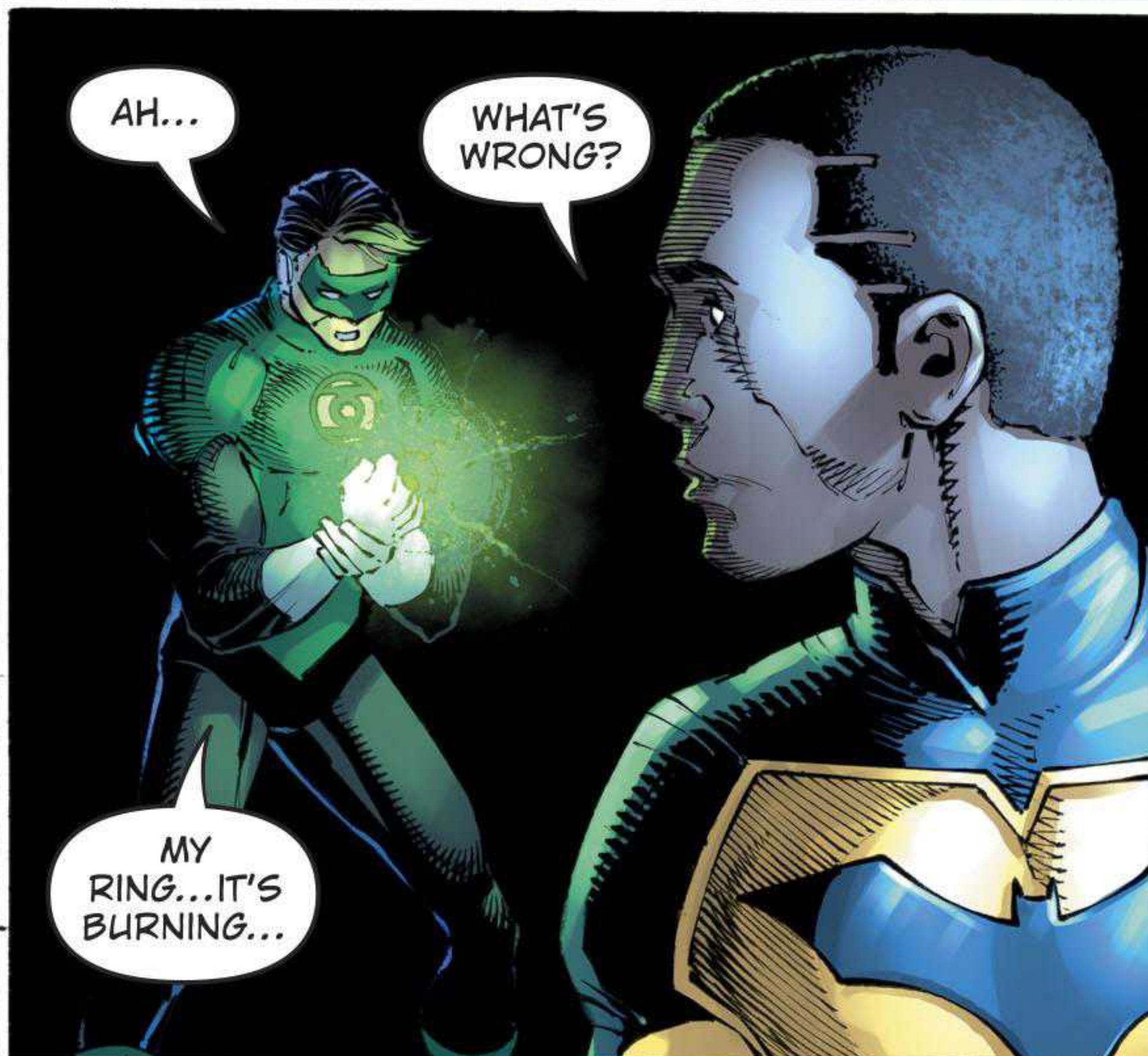
THE **COURT OF OWLS**. RIGHT, DICK? I MEAN, IF YOU'RE NOT ALFRED, YOU HAVE TO BE--



YOU SEE, A METAL SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO **DO** WHAT THIS "**ELECTRUM**" COULD DO. NO COMPOUND OF GOLD AND SILVER COULD MAKE THE DEAD TALONS WALK AGAIN...AND SO BATMAN HAD HIS **THREAD**, AND HE PULLED...



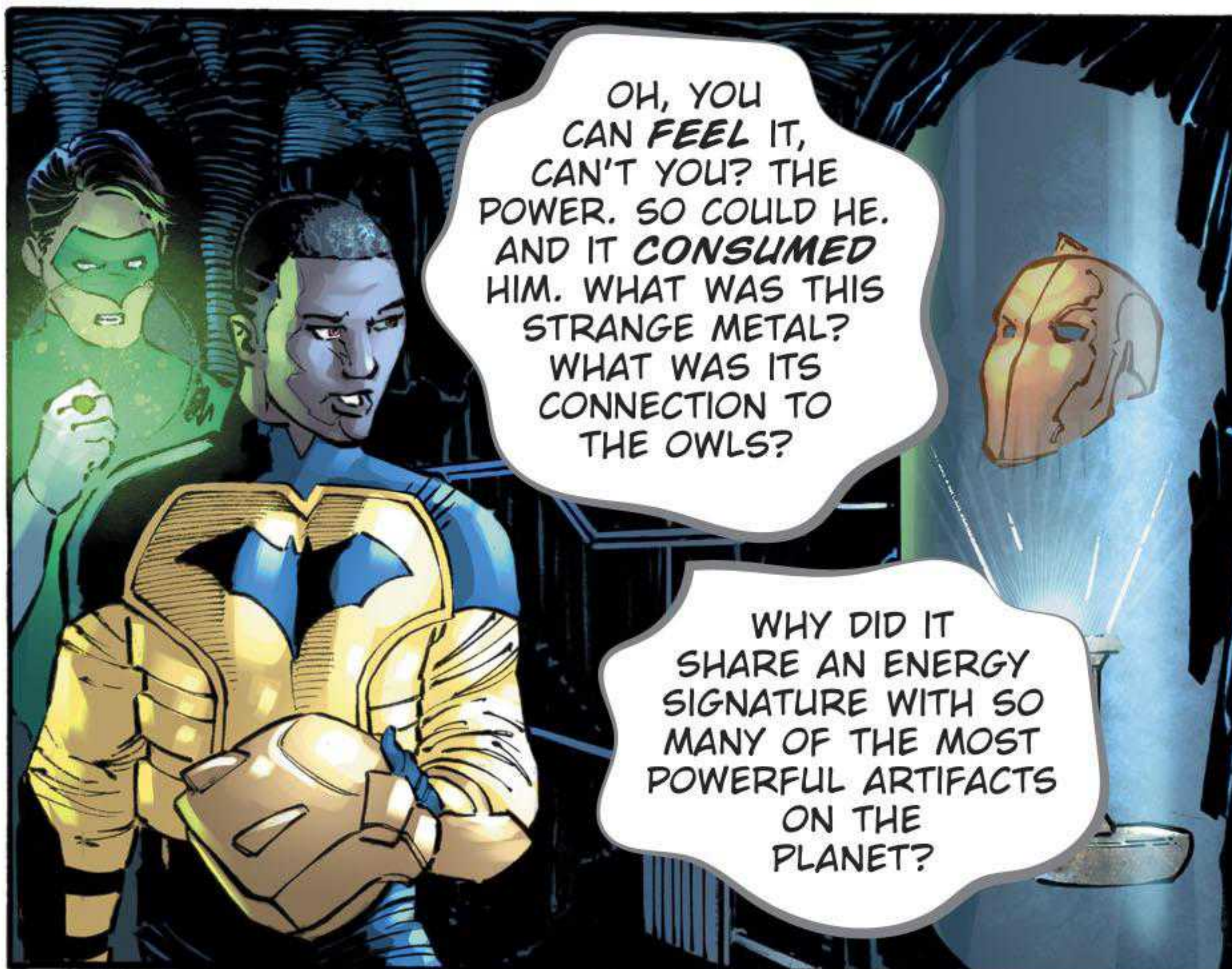
AND HE **EXTRACTED** SOMETHING FROM THE METAL...A STRANGE SUBSTANCE HE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE. A METAL THAT SCIENCE **COULDN'T** EXPLAIN.



AH...

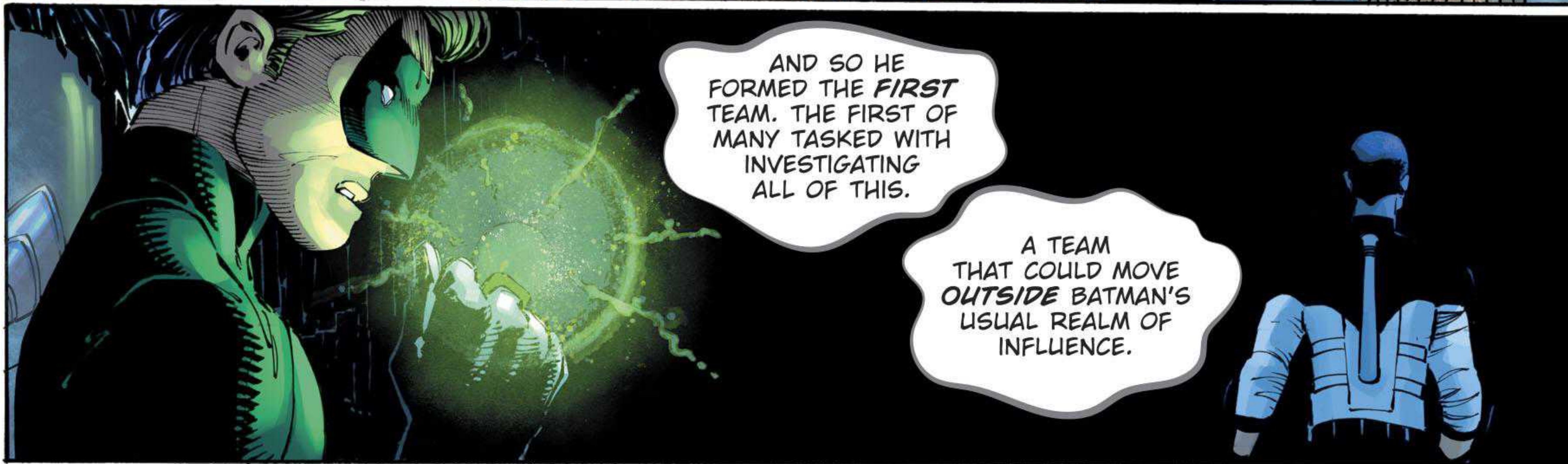
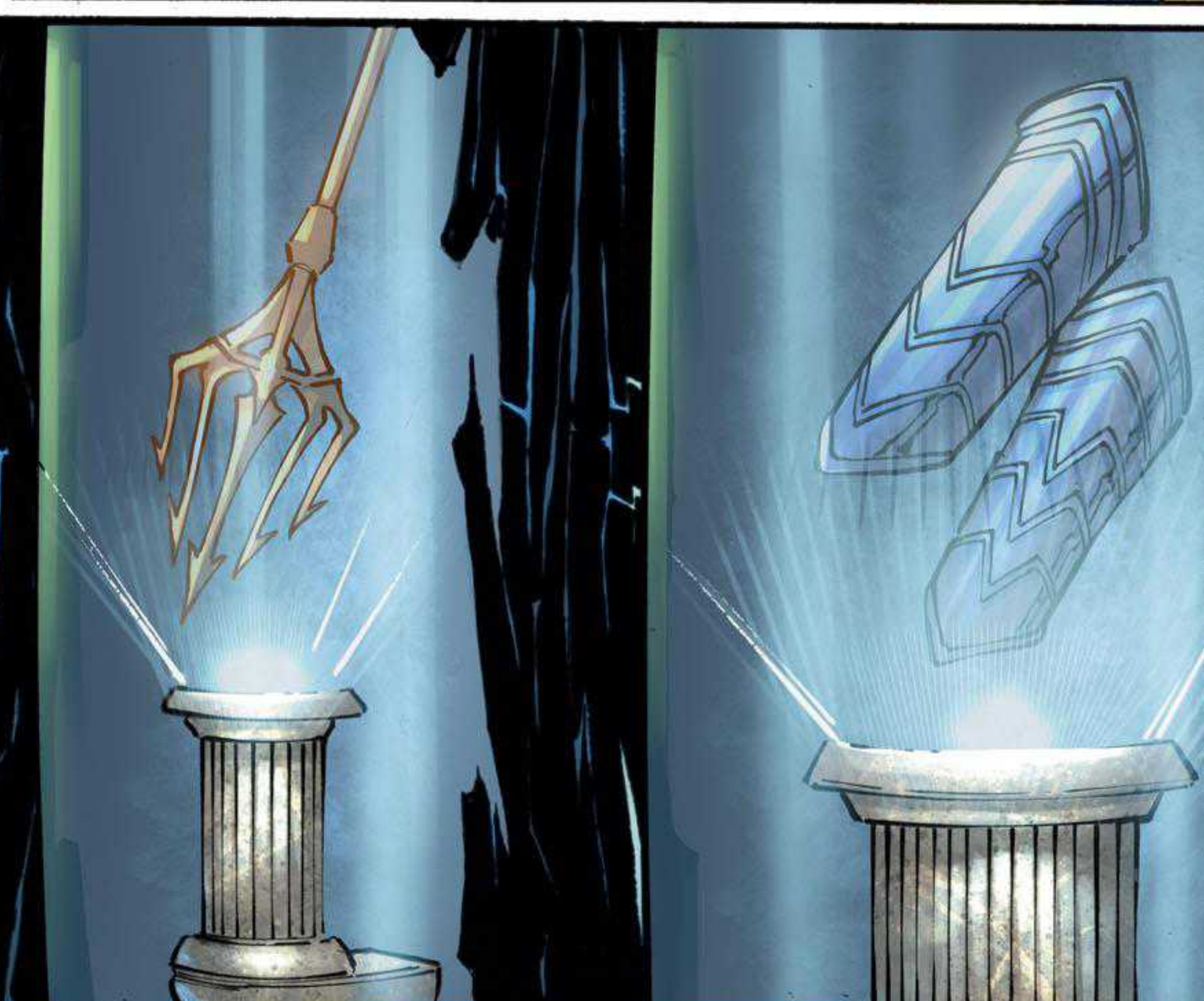
WHAT'S WRONG?

MY RING...IT'S BURNING...



OH, YOU CAN **FEEL** IT, CAN'T YOU? THE POWER. SO COULD HE. AND IT **CONSUMED** HIM. WHAT WAS THIS STRANGE METAL? WHAT WAS ITS CONNECTION TO THE OWLS?

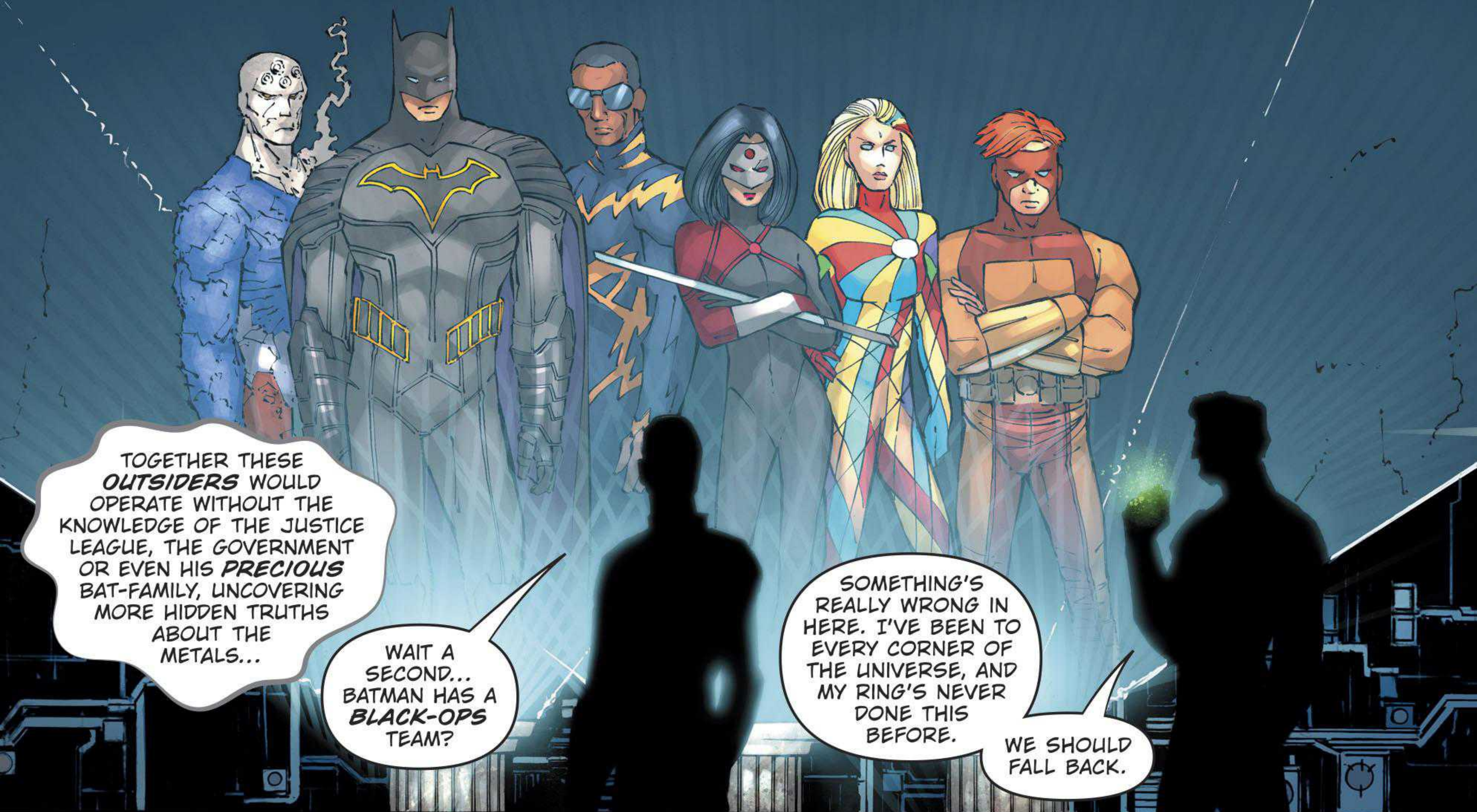
WHY DID IT SHARE AN ENERGY SIGNATURE WITH SO MANY OF THE MOST POWERFUL ARTIFACTS ON THE PLANET?



AND SO HE FORMED THE **FIRST** TEAM. THE FIRST OF MANY TASKED WITH INVESTIGATING ALL OF THIS.

A TEAM THAT COULD MOVE **OUTSIDE** BATMAN'S USUAL REALM OF INFLUENCE.





TOGETHER THESE **OUTSIDERS** WOULD OPERATE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, THE GOVERNMENT OR EVEN HIS **PRECIOUS** BAT-FAMILY, UNCOVERING MORE HIDDEN TRUTHS ABOUT THE METALS...

WAIT A SECOND... BATMAN HAS A **BLACK-OPS** TEAM?

SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG IN HERE. I'VE BEEN TO EVERY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE, AND MY RING'S NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.

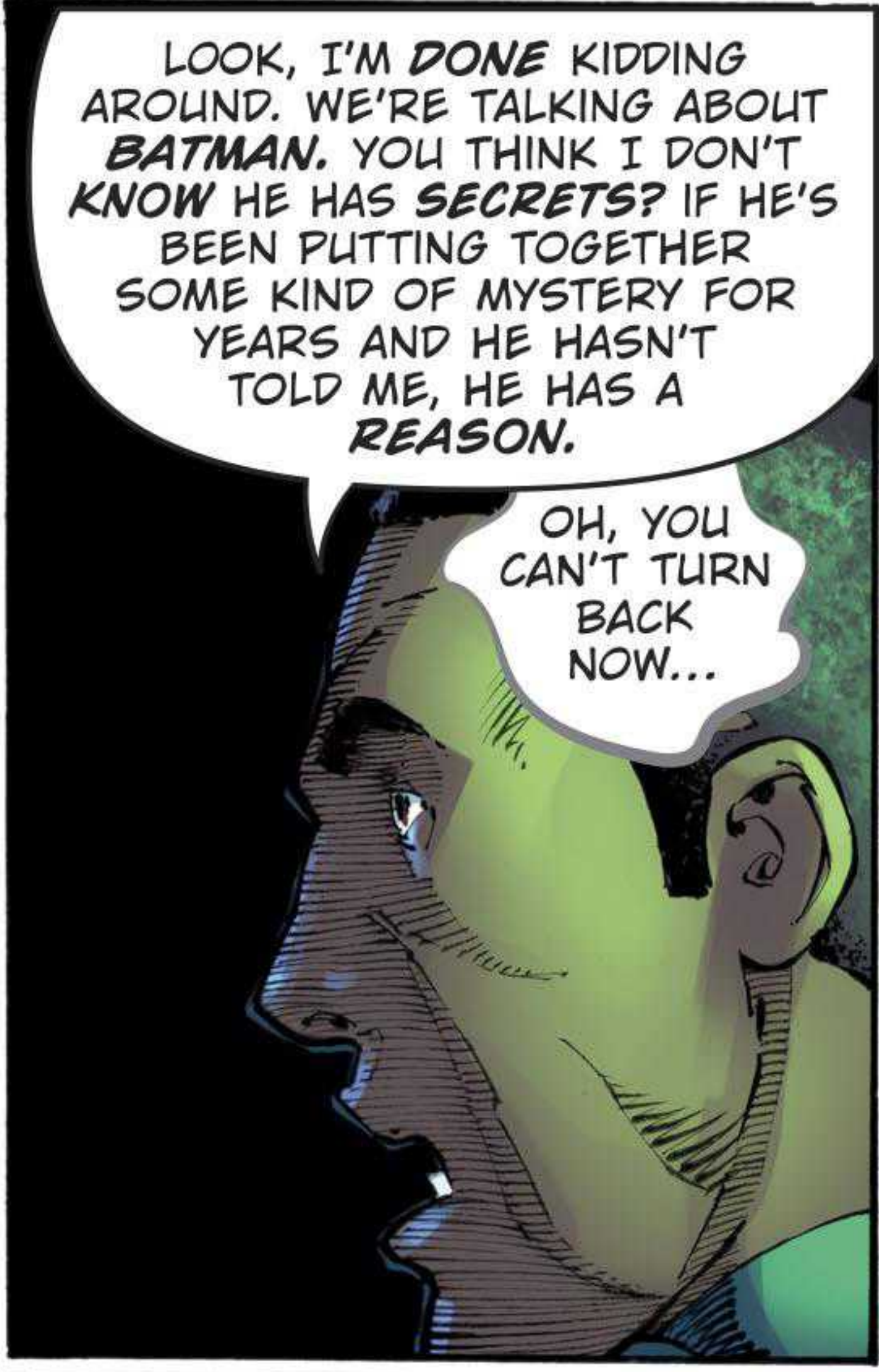
WE SHOULD FALL BACK.



OH, NO NO NO... YOU CAN'T DO THAT...

I'VE BEEN **DYING** FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU BOTH FACE TO FACE. WE'RE ALL CONNECTED, YOU SEE. I WAS HOPING SOMEONE WOULD COME MEDDLING.

IT'S BEEN SO **LONELY** DOWN HERE.



LOOK, I'M **DONE** KIDDING AROUND. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT **BATMAN**. YOU THINK I DON'T **KNOW** HE HAS **SECRETS**? IF HE'S BEEN PUTTING TOGETHER SOME KIND OF MYSTERY FOR YEARS AND HE HASN'T TOLD ME, HE HAS A **REASON**.

OH, YOU CAN'T TURN BACK NOW...



THE **NEXT** BIT'S THE **BEST** PART.

IT ALL HAS TO DO WITH A LIQUID METAL, SHIMMERING AND GREEN. A METAL THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.

THEY CALLED IT **DIONESIUM**.



BUT HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO FOUND IT, WAS HE?

NO.



WHAT THE **HELL** IS GOING ON IN HERE? WHO **ARE** YOU?

OH, I THINK **HE'S** STARTING TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER.

JUST LIKE I DID.





YOU SEE, HE WAS DRAGGED INTO THIS WORLD FOR A **REASON**. THE SAME REASON I'M SURE YOUR CELESTIAL BOSSES SENT YOU DIGGING FOR ANSWERS.

SHOW YOURSELF.

BECAUSE **BATMAN** IS GETTING CLOSER TO THE **TRUTH**.



-ZZZT-  
CANNOT COMPLY  
-ZZZT- ANOMALY  
DETECTED  
-ZZZT-

AAAAHHHHHHH!



MY ARM'S ON FIRE. LET'S GO BACK TO THE CAVE. I CAN BRING IN THE LEAGUE...SOMETHING'S **VERY** WRONG HERE.

NO.  
WE KEEP GOING.



OH, MR. GREEN LANTERN. ARE YOU **AFRAID**?

I DON'T **GET** AFRAID.



OH, I THINK YOU **DO**...I THINK WE ALL **DO**...IT'S **ALL** IN THAT MOMENT OF DISCOVERY...

WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN SOMETHING YOU WILL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO UNLEARN.



SOMETHING THAT PUTS ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER, AND YOU FINALLY SEE THE TRUTH, AND THE WORLD CHANGES.

AND YOU **KNOW** IT'LL NEVER GO BACK THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.

BUT IF YOU'RE SO **VERY BRAVE**, THEN JUST **OPEN THE DOOR**.



*You don't even realize when it happens. One minute you're following the clues, and the next, they're pulling you forward, dragging you.*

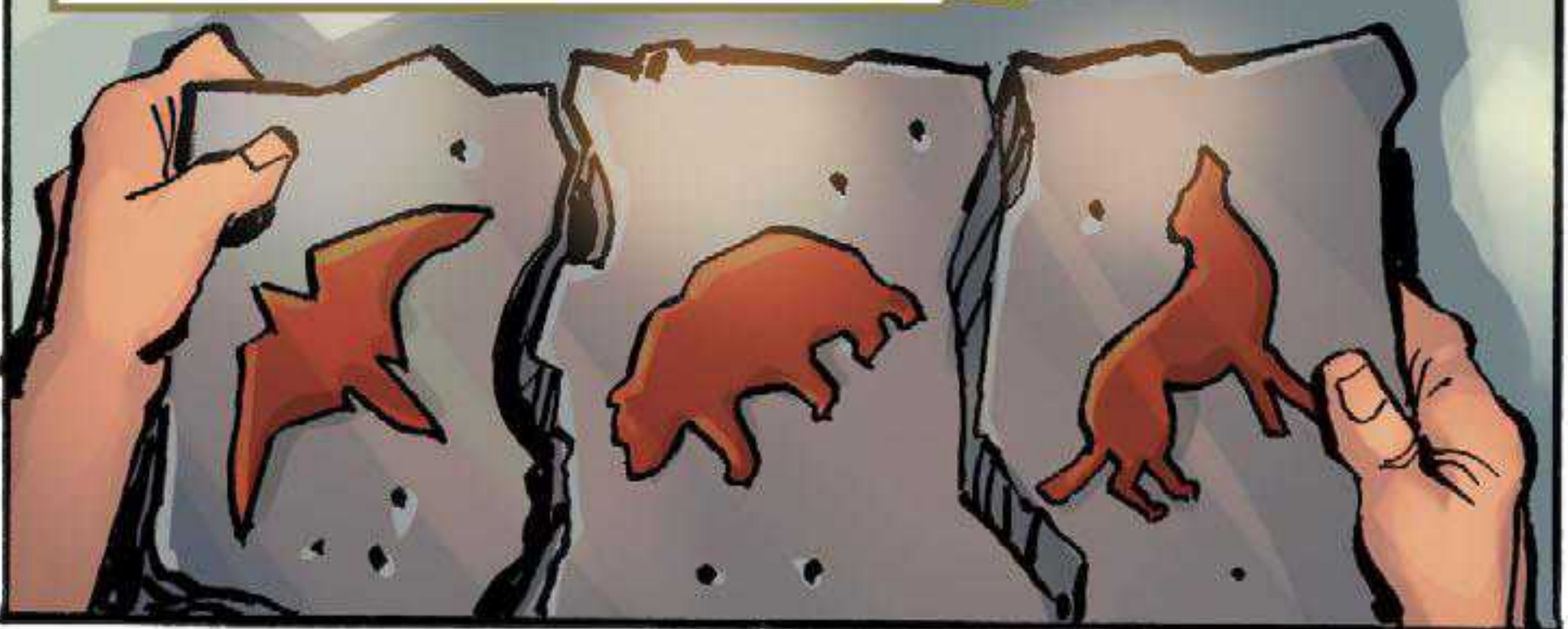


*For years I studied Nth metal alone, trying to unlock the secret of its abilities. What I came to understand was that it was conducting energy...powerful energy from somewhere beyond my understanding.*

*I dug deeper. Followed every clue I could find...*



*Until one day I got a glimpse.*



*A glimpse of a story that began with the first men to walk the Earth. Three tribes...*



*Or rather...four.*







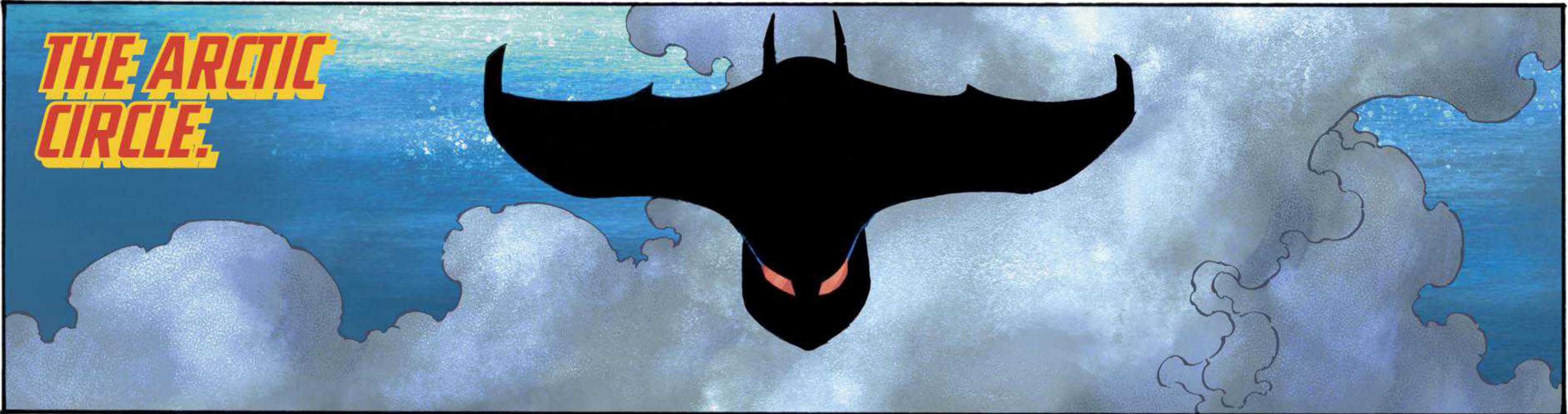
And  
something  
else...

I was part of something  
bigger, something  
beyond my control.

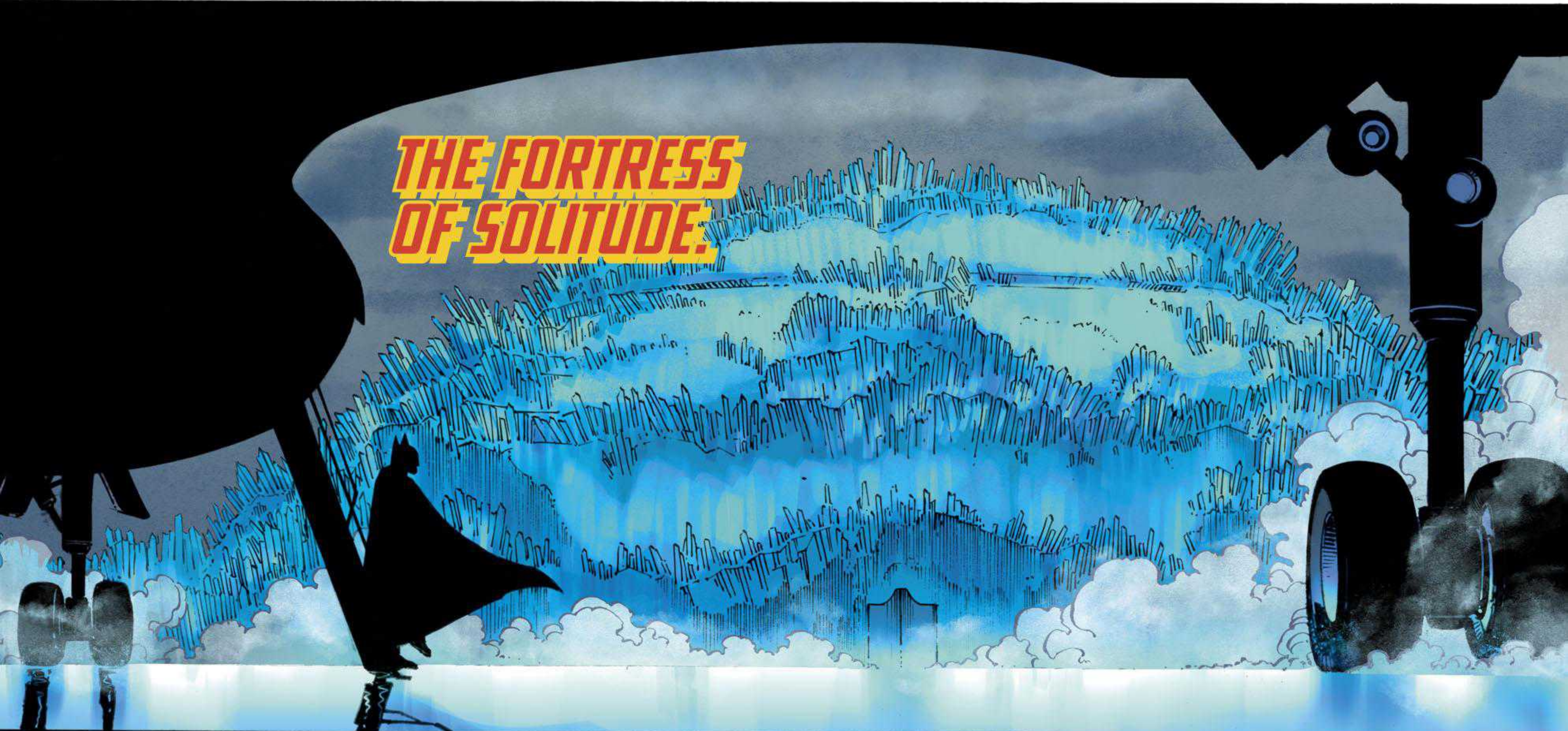
And I would do  
everything in my power  
to uncover what had  
been taken from me.  
The secret that  
stretched back to the  
dawn of my species.

No matter what  
the cost.

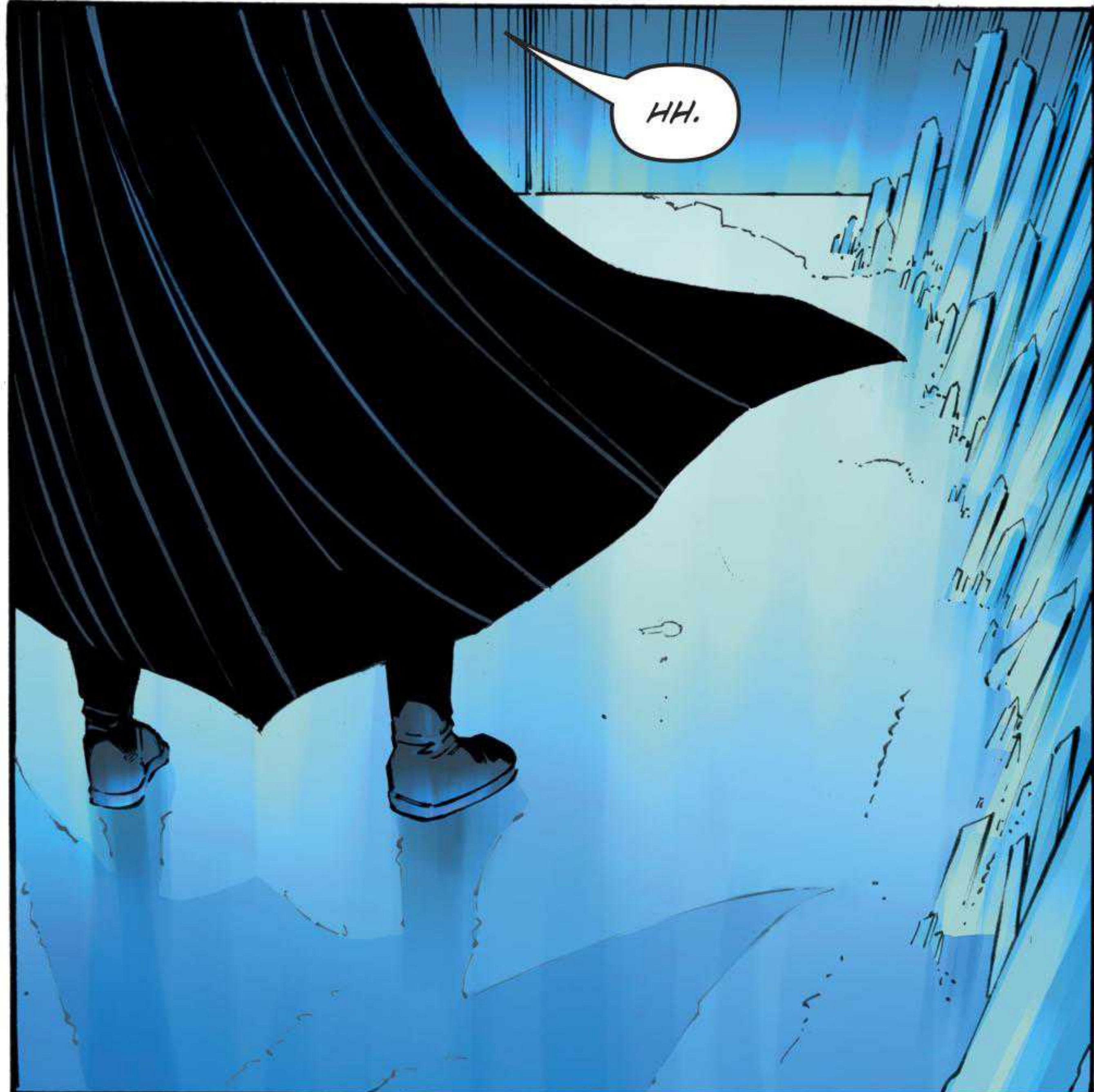




**THE ARCTIC  
CIRCLE.**



**THE FORTRESS  
OF SOLITUDE.**

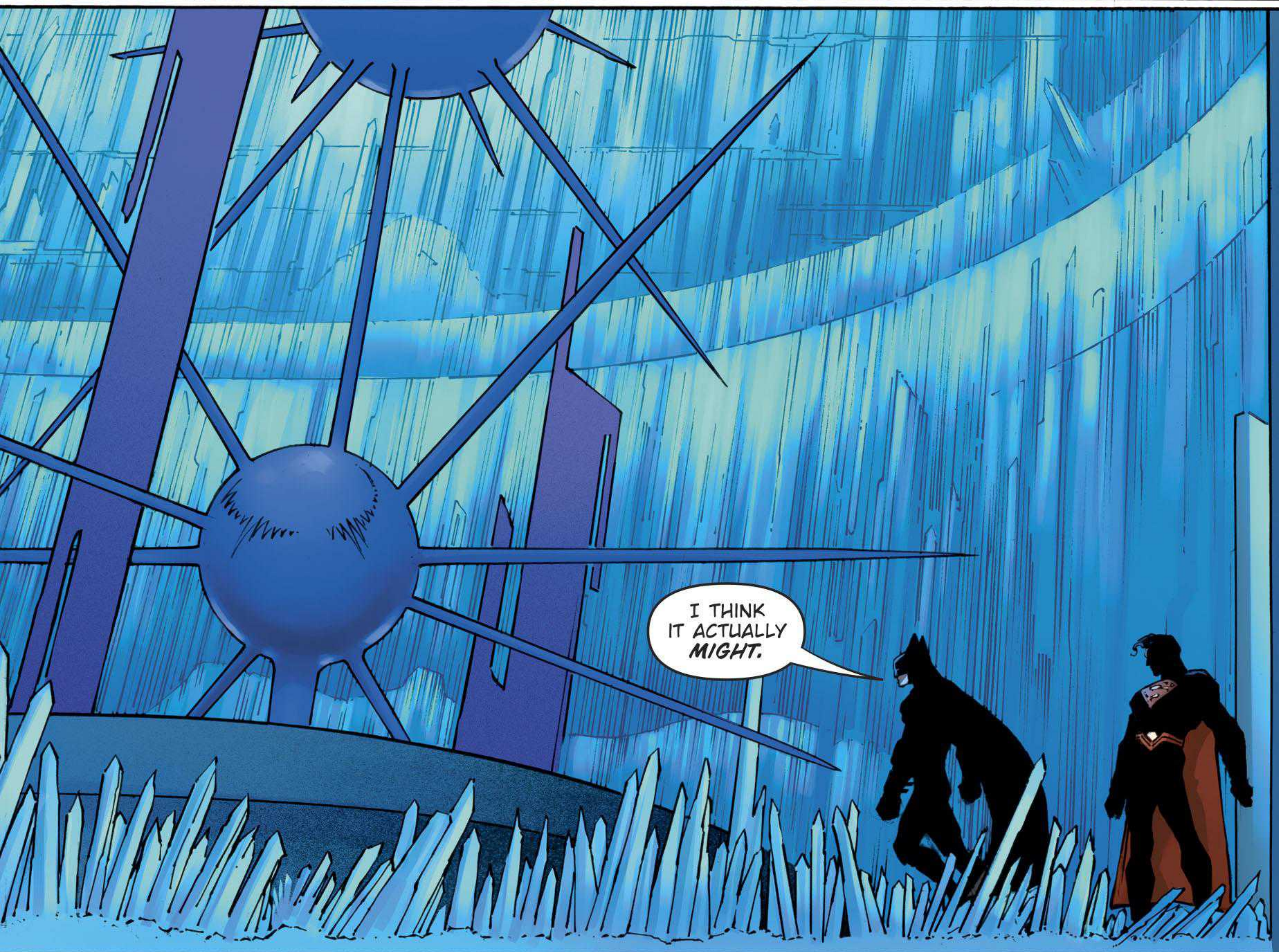


HH.

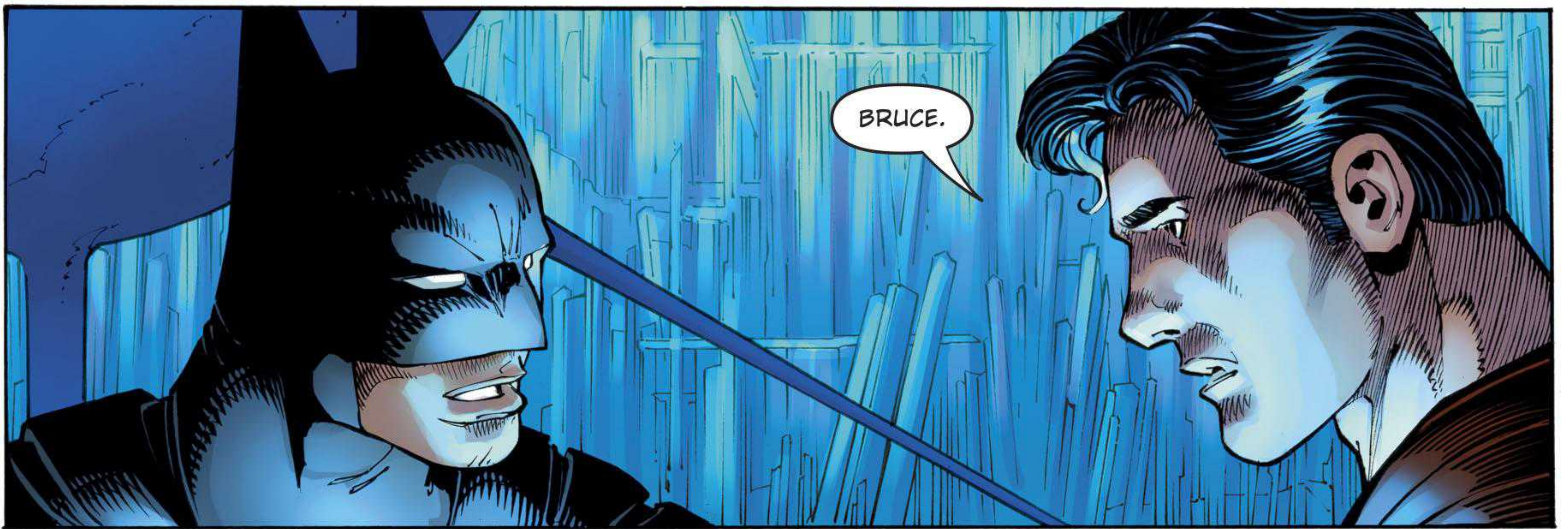


CLARK. I  
KNOW YOU'RE  
IN THERE. LET  
ME IN.













YOU BUILT A **SECRET ROOM** AT THE **TOP** OF THE WORLD WITH **ONE** DOOR AND A LOCK THAT NO HUMAN COULD **EVER** UNLOCK.

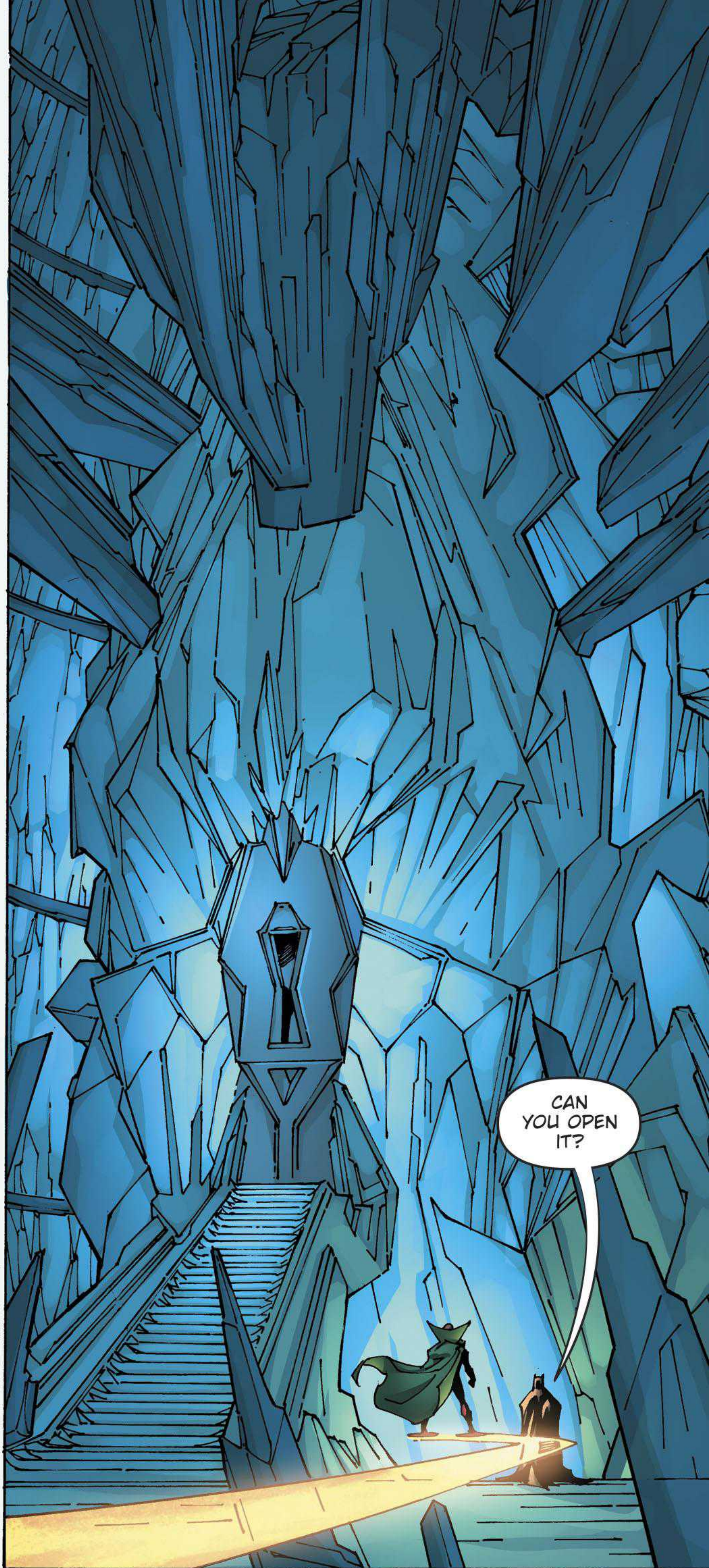
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE **KEY**?



I SHOT IT INTO THE SUN.

THAT'S A JOKE, RIGHT?

RIGHT?

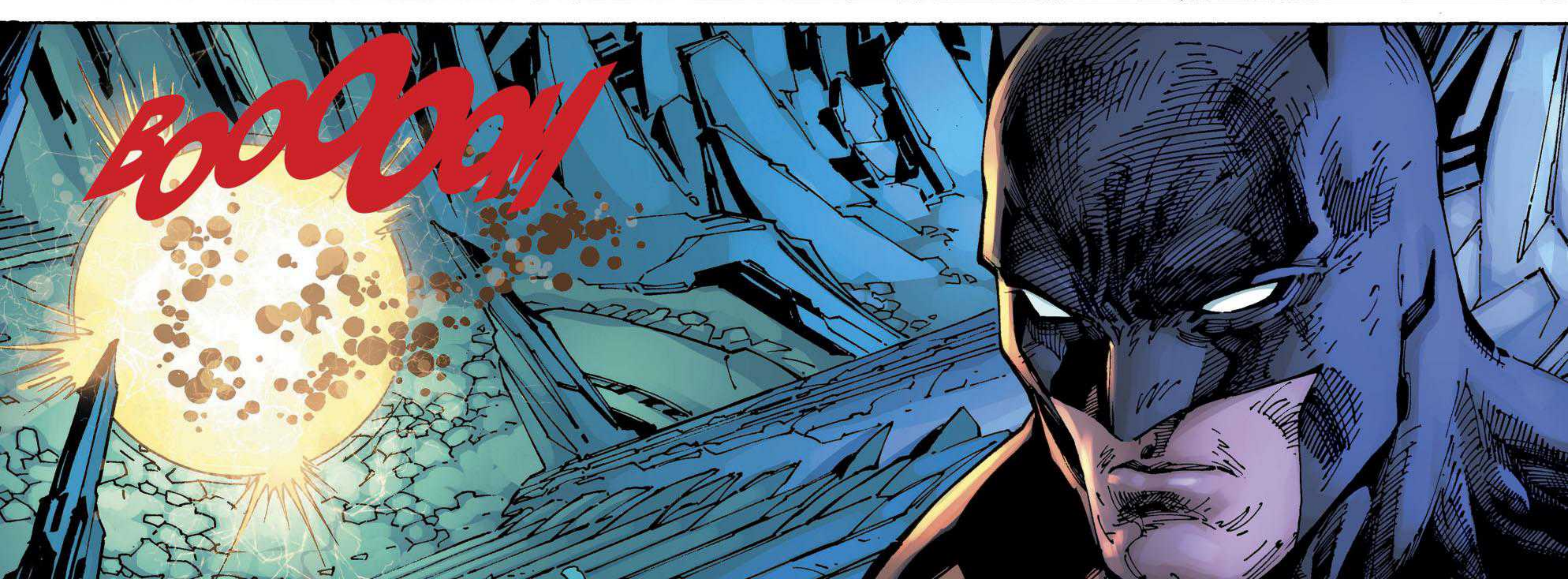
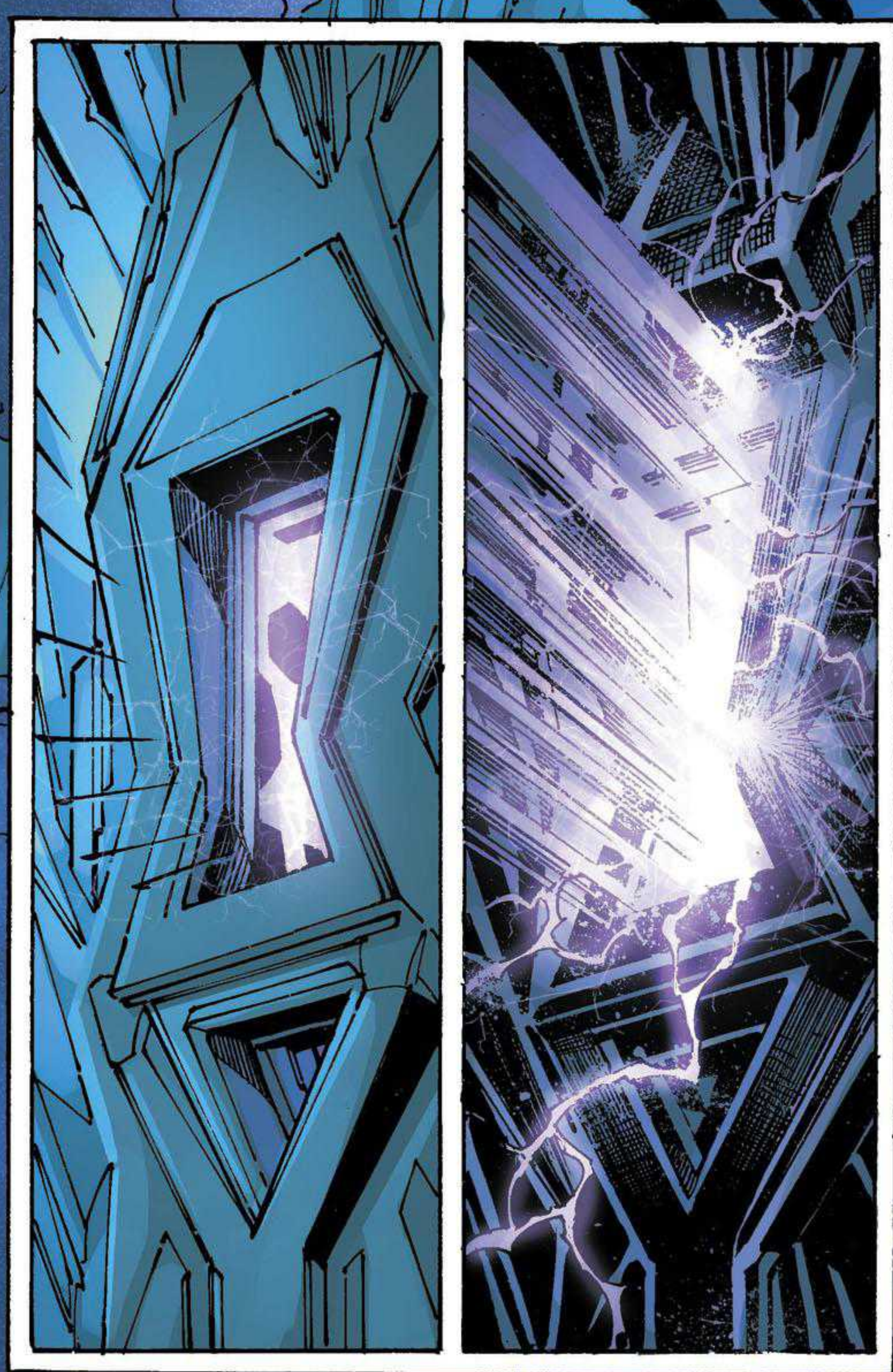


CAN YOU OPEN IT?



THEY DON'T CALL ME **MISTER MIRACLE** FOR NOTHING.







*I wish I could go back  
to that moment and  
warn myself.*

*I write this journal  
for anyone foolish  
enough to pick up  
my trail.*

*Whatever you do,  
do not follow in  
my footsteps.*

LIKE A  
COMPASS...

COMPUTER. RUN  
ALL VIBRATIONAL  
DATA THROUGH THE  
TOWER. WE SHOULD  
BE ABLE TO TRACK  
THE EXACT DIMEN-  
SIONAL FREQUENCY  
OF THE DARK  
ENERGY.

RECEIVING  
DATA...

IT'S  
TIME,  
THEN...

TIME TO  
SEE WHAT'S IN  
THE DARK ONCE  
AND FOR ALL.





*I beg of you,  
whoever might be  
reading this,  
however many  
generations might  
have passed...*

BATMAN,  
WHAT THE HELL  
HAVE YOU GOTTEN  
YOURSELF INTO  
THIS TIME...?

OH, I  
CAN TELL YOU  
THAT.

Do not follow  
the mystery of  
the metals.

THIS IS A  
MYSTERY THAT  
STRETCHES BACK TO  
THE DAWN OF TIME.  
IT'S BIGGER THAN  
ALL OF US.

AND  
IT SURE AS  
HELL IS BIGGER  
THAN YOU.

*Some mysteries are best  
unsolved. Some doors  
best left unopened...*

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND. ALL  
THAT WAS JUST A  
CRUEL JOKE.



Because through them,  
all you'll find is  
horror.

YOU'RE JUST  
ANOTHER COUPLE OF  
PIECES IN BATMAN'S  
PUZZLE.

JUST  
LIKE ME.

HAHAHA  
HAHAHAHA  
HAHAHAHA  
HAHAHA  
HAHAHA

# DARK TALES THE FORGE

SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION IV writers  
JIM LEE, ANDY KUBERT & JOHN ROMITA JR. pencils  
SCOTT WILLIAMS, KLAUS JANSON & DANNY MIKI inks  
ALEX SINCLAIR with JEREMIAH SKIPPER color STEVE WANDS letters  
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS & ALEX SINCLAIR cover  
ANDY KUBERT & BRAD ANDERSON,  
JOHN ROMITA JR., DANNY MIKI & ALEX SINCLAIR variant covers  
DAVE WIELGOSZ asst. editor  
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER.  
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.  
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